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(54) Title: METHODS FOR GENERATING GENETICALLY ALTERED ANTIBODY-PRODUCING CELL LINES WITH IMPROVED ANTIBODY CHARACTERISTICS

(57) Abstract: Dominant negative alleles of human mismatch repair genes can be used to generate hypermutable cells and organisms. By introducing these genes into cells and transgenic animals, new cell lines and animal varieties with novel and useful properties can be prepared more efficiently than by relying on the natural rate of mutation. These methods are useful for generating genetic diversity within immunoglobulin genes directed against an antigen of interest to produce altered antibodies with enhanced biochemical activity. Moreover, these methods are useful for generating antibody-producing cells with increased level of antibody production.

**METHODS FOR GENERATING GENETICALLY ALTERED ANTIBODY-  
PRODUCING CELL LINES WITH IMPROVED ANTIBODY  
CHARACTERISTICS**

**5 TECHNICAL FIELD OF THE INVENTION**

The invention is related to the area of antibody maturation and cellular production. In particular, it is related to the field of mutagenesis.

**BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

- 10 The use of antibodies to block the activity of foreign and/or endogenous polypeptides provides an effective and selective strategy for treating the underlying cause of disease. In particular is the use of monoclonal antibodies (MAB) as effective therapeutics such as the FDA approved ReoPro (Glaser, V. (1996) Can ReoPro repolish tarnished monoclonal therapeutics? *Nat. Biotechnol.* 14:1216-1217), an anti-platelet MAB from Centocor; Herceptin (Weiner, L.M. (1999) Monoclonal antibody therapy of cancer. *Semin. Oncol.* 26:43-51), an anti-Her2/neu MAB from Genentech; and Synagis (Saez-Llorens, X.E., *et al.* (1998) Safety and pharmacokinetics of an intramuscular humanized monoclonal antibody to respiratory syncytial virus in premature infants and infants with bronchopulmonary dysplasia. *Pediat. Infect. Dis. J.* 17:787-791), an anti-respiratory
- 15 from Centocor; Herceptin (Weiner, L.M. (1999) Monoclonal antibody therapy of cancer. *Semin. Oncol.* 26:43-51), an anti-Her2/neu MAB from Genentech; and Synagis (Saez-Llorens, X.E., *et al.* (1998) Safety and pharmacokinetics of an intramuscular humanized monoclonal antibody to respiratory syncytial virus in premature infants and infants with bronchopulmonary dysplasia. *Pediat. Infect. Dis. J.* 17:787-791), an anti-respiratory
- 20 syncytial virus MAB produced by Medimmune.

- Standard methods for generating MABs against candidate protein targets are known by those skilled in the art. Briefly, rodents such as mice or rats are injected with a purified antigen in the presence of adjuvant to generate an immune response (Shield, C.F., *et al.* (1996) A cost-effective analysis of OKT3 induction therapy in cadaveric kidney
- 25 transplantation. *Am. J. Kidney Dis.* 27:855-864). Rodents with positive immune sera are sacrificed and splenocytes are isolated. Isolated splenocytes are fused to melanomas to produce immortalized cell lines that are then screened for antibody production. Positive lines are isolated and characterized for antibody production. The direct use of rodent MABs as human therapeutic agents were confounded by the fact that human anti-rodent
- 30 antibody (HARA) responses occurred in a significant number of patients treated with the rodent-derived antibody (Khazaeli, M.B., *et al.*, (1994) Human immune response to monoclonal antibodies. *J. Immunother.* 15:42-52). In order to circumvent the problem of HARA, the grafting of the complementarity determining regions (CDRs), which are the

critical motifs found within the heavy and light chain variable regions of the immunoglobulin (Ig) subunits making up the antigen binding domain, onto a human antibody backbone found these chimeric molecules are able to retain their binding activity to antigen while lacking the HARA response (Emery, S.C., and Harris, W.J. "Strategies for humanizing antibodies" In: ANTIBODY ENGINEERING C.A.K. Borrebaeck (Ed.) Oxford University Press, N.Y. 1995. pp. 159-183. A common problem that exists during the "humanization" of rodent-derived MABs (referred to hereon as HAb) is the loss of binding affinity due to conformational changes in the 3 dimensional structure of the CDR domain upon grafting onto the human Ig backbone (U.S. Patent No. 5,530,101 to Queen *et al.*). To overcome this problem, additional HAb vectors are usually needed to be engineered by inserting or deleting additional amino acid residues within the framework region and/or within the CDR coding region itself in order to recreate high affinity HABs (U.S. Patent No. 5,530,101 to Queen *et al.*). This process is a very time consuming procedure that involves the use of expensive computer modeling programs to predict changes that may lead to a high affinity HAb. In some instances the affinity of the HAb is never restored to that of the MAB, rendering them of little therapeutic use.

Another problem that exists in antibody engineering is the generation of stable, high yielding producer cell lines that is required for manufacturing of the molecule for clinical materials. Several strategies have been adopted in standard practice by those skilled in the art to circumvent this problem. One method is the use of Chinese Hamster Ovary (CHO) cells transfected with exogenous Ig fusion genes containing the grafted human light and heavy chains to produce whole antibodies or single chain antibodies, which are a chimeric molecule containing both light and heavy chains that form an antigen-binding polypeptide (Reff, M.E. (1993) High-level production of recombinant immunoglobulins in mammalian cells. *Curr. Opin. Biotechnol.* 4:573-576). Another method employs the use of human lymphocytes derived from transgenic mice containing a human grafted immune system or transgenic mice containing a human Ig gene repertoire. Yet another method employs the use of monkeys to produce primate MABs, which have been reported to lack a human anti-monkey response (Neuberger, M., and Gruggermann, M. (1997) Monoclonal antibodies. Mice perform a human repertoire. *Nature* 386:25-26). In all cases, the generation of a cell line that is capable of generating sufficient amounts of high affinity antibody poses a major limitation for producing sufficient materials for clinical studies. Because of these limitations, the utility of other recombinant systems such

as plants are currently being explored as systems that will lead to the stable, high-level production of humanized antibodies (Fiedler, U., and Conrad, U. (1995) High-level production and long-term storage of engineered antibodies in transgenic tobacco seeds. *Bio/Technology* 13:1090-1093).

- 5           A method for generating diverse antibody sequences within the variable domain that results in HAbS and MAbS with high binding affinities to antigens would be useful for the creation of more potent therapeutic and diagnostic reagents respectively. Moreover, the generation of randomly altered nucleotide and polypeptide residues throughout an entire antibody molecule will result in new reagents that are less antigenic and/or have
- 10   beneficial pharmacokinetic properties. The invention described herein is directed to the use of random genetic mutation throughout an antibody structure *in vivo* by blocking the endogenous mismatch repair (MMR) activity of a host cell producing immunoglobulins that encode biochemically active antibodies. The invention also relates to methods for repeated *in vivo* genetic alterations and selection for antibodies with enhanced binding and
- 15   pharmacokinetic profiles.

- In addition, the ability to develop genetically altered host cells that are capable of secreting increased amounts of antibody will also provide a valuable method for creating cell hosts for product development. The invention described herein is directed to the creation of genetically altered cell hosts with increased antibody production via the
- 20   blockade of MMR.

          The invention facilitates the generation of high affinity antibodies and the production of cell lines with elevated levels of antibody production. Other advantages of the present invention are described in the examples and figures described herein.

#### **SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**

- 25           The invention provides methods for generating genetically altered antibodies (including single chain molecules) and antibody producing cell hosts *in vitro* and *in vivo*, whereby the antibody possess a desired biochemical property(s), such as, but not limited to, increased antigen binding, increased gene expression, and/or enhanced extracellular secretion by the cell host. One method for identifying antibodies with increased binding
- 30   activity or cells with increased antibody production is through the screening of MMR defective antibody producing cell clones that produce molecules with enhanced binding properties or clones that have been genetically altered to produce enhanced amounts of antibody product.

The antibody producing cells suitable for use in the invention include, but are not limited to rodent, primate, or human hybridomas or lymphoblastoids; mammalian cells transfected and expressing exogenous Ig subunits or chimeric single chain molecules; plant cells, yeast or bacteria transfected and expressing exogenous Ig subunits or chimeric single chain molecules.

Thus, the invention provides methods for making hypermutable antibody-producing cells by introducing a polynucleotide comprising a dominant negative allele of a mismatch repair gene into cells that are capable of producing antibodies. The cells that are capable of producing antibodies include cells that naturally produce antibodies, and cells that are engineered to produce antibodies through the introduction of immunoglobulin encoding sequences. Conveniently, the introduction of polynucleotide sequences into cells is accomplished by transfection.

The invention also provides methods of making hypermutable antibody producing cells by introducing a dominant negative mismatch repair (MMR) gene such as *PMS2* (preferably human *PMS2*), *MLH1*, *PMS1*, *MSH2*, or *MSH2* into cells that are capable of producing antibodies. The dominant negative allele of a mismatch repair gene may be a truncation mutation of a mismatch repair gene (preferably a truncation mutation at codon 134, or a thymidine at nucleotide 424 of wild-type *PMS2*). The invention also provides methods in which mismatch repair gene activity is suppressed. This may be accomplished, for example, using antisense molecules directed against the mismatch repair gene or transcripts.

Other embodiments of the invention provide methods for making a hypermutable antibody producing cells by introducing a polynucleotide comprising a dominant negative allele of a mismatch repair gene into fertilized eggs of animals. These methods may also include subsequently implanting the eggs into pseudo-pregnant females whereby the fertilized eggs develop into a mature transgenic animal. The mismatch repair genes may include, for example, *PMS2* (preferably human *PMS2*), *MLH1*, *PMS1*, *MSH2*, or *MSH2*. The dominant negative allele of a mismatch repair gene may be a truncation mutation of a mismatch repair gene (preferably a truncation mutation at codon 134, or a thymidine at nucleotide 424 of wild-type *PMS2*).

The invention further provides homogeneous compositions of cultured, hypermutable, mammalian cells that are capable of producing antibodies and contain a dominant negative allele of a mismatch repair gene. The mismatch repair genes may

include, for example, *PMS2* (preferably human *PMS2*), *MLH1*, *PMS1*, *MSH2*, or *MSH2*. The dominant negative allele of a mismatch repair gene may be a truncation mutation of a mismatch repair gene (preferably a truncation mutation at codon 134, or a thymidine at nucleotide 424 of wild-type *PMS2*). The cells of the culture may contain *PMS2*, (preferably human *PMS2*), *MLH1*, or *PMS1*; or express a human *mutL* homolog, or the first 133 amino acids of hPMS2.

The invention further provides methods for generating a mutation in an immunoglobulin gene of interest by culturing an immunoglobulin producing cell selected for an immunoglobulin of interest wherein the cell contains a dominant negative allele of a mismatch repair gene. The properties of the immunoglobulin produced from the cells can be assayed to ascertain whether the immunoglobulin gene harbors a mutation. The assay may be directed to analyzing a polynucleotide encoding the immunoglobulin, or may be directed to the immunoglobulin polypeptide itself.

The invention also provides methods for generating a mutation in a gene affecting antibody production in an antibody-producing cell by culturing the cell expressing a dominant negative allele of a mismatch repair gene, and testing the cell to determine whether the cell harbors mutations within the gene of interest, such that a new biochemical feature (e.g., over-expression and/or secretion of immunoglobulin products) is generated. The testing may include analysis of the steady state expression of the immunoglobulin gene of interest, and/or analysis of the amount of secreted protein encoded by the immunoglobulin gene of interest. The invention also embraces prokaryotic and eukaryotic transgenic cells made by this process, including cells from rodents, non-human primates and humans.

Other aspects of the invention encompass methods of reversibly altering the hypermutability of an antibody producing cell, in which an inducible vector containing a dominant negative allele of a mismatch repair gene operably linked to an inducible promoter is introduced into an antibody-producing cell. The cell is treated with an inducing agent to express the dominant negative mismatch repair gene (which can be *PMS2* (preferably human *PMS2*), *MLH1*, or *PMS1*). Alternatively, the cell may be induced to express a human *mutL* homolog or the first 133 amino acids of hPMS2. In another embodiment, the cells may be rendered capable of producing antibodies by co-transfecting a preselected immunoglobulin gene of interest. The immunoglobulin genes of the hypermutable cells, or the proteins produced by these methods may be analyzed for desired

properties, and induction may be stopped such that the genetic stability of the host cell is restored.

The invention also embraces methods of producing genetically altered antibodies by transfecting a polynucleotide encoding an immunoglobulin protein into a cell containing a dominant negative mismatch repair gene (either naturally or in which the dominant negative mismatch repair gene was introduced into the cell), culturing the cell to allow the immunoglobulin gene to become mutated and produce a mutant immunoglobulin, screening for a desirable property of said mutant immunoglobulin protein, isolating the polynucleotide molecule encoding the selected mutant immunoglobulin possessing the desired property, and transfecting said mutant polynucleotide into a genetically stable cell, such that the mutant antibody is consistently produced without further genetic alteration. The dominant negative mismatch repair gene may be *PMS2* (preferably human *PMS2*), *MLH1*, or *PMS1*. Alternatively, the cell may express a human *mutL* homolog or the first 133 amino acids of hPMS2.

The invention further provides methods for generating genetically altered cell lines that express enhanced amounts of an antigen binding polypeptide. These antigen-binding polypeptides may be, for example, immunoglobulins. The methods of the invention also include methods for generating genetically altered cell lines that secrete enhanced amounts of an antigen binding polypeptide. The cell lines are rendered hypermutable by dominant negative mismatch repair genes that provide an enhanced rate of genetic hypermutation in a cell producing antigen-binding polypeptides such as antibodies. Such cells include, but are not limited to hybridomas. Expression of enhanced amounts of antigen binding polypeptides may be through enhanced transcription or translation of the polynucleotides encoding the antigen binding polypeptides, or through the enhanced secretion of the antigen binding polypeptides, for example.

Methods are also provided for creating genetically altered antibodies *in vivo* by blocking the MMR activity of the cell host, or by transfecting genes encoding for immunoglobulin in a MMR defective cell host.

Antibodies with increased binding properties to an antigen due to genetic changes within the variable domain are provided in methods of the invention that block endogenous MMR of the cell host. Antibodies with increased binding properties to an antigen due to genetic changes within the CDR regions within the light and/or heavy

chains are also provided in methods of the invention that block endogenous MMR of the cell host.

The invention provides methods of creating genetically altered antibodies in MMR defective Ab producer cell lines with enhanced pharmacokinetic properties in host

- 5 organisms including but not limited to rodents, primates, and man.

These and other aspects of the invention are provided by one or more of the embodiments described below. In one embodiment of the invention, a method for making an antibody producing cell line hypermutable is provided. A polynucleotide encoding a dominant negative allele of a MMR gene is introduced into an antibody-producing cell.

- 10 The cell becomes hypermutable as a result of the introduction of the gene.

In another embodiment of the invention, a method is provided for introducing a mutation into an endogenous gene encoding for an immunoglobulin polypeptide or a single chain antibody. A polynucleotide encoding a dominant negative allele of a MMR gene is introduced into a cell. The cell becomes hypermutable as a result of the

- 15 introduction and expression of the MMR gene allele. The cell further comprises an immunoglobulin gene of interest. The cell is grown and tested to determine whether the gene encoding for an immunoglobulin or a single chain antibody of interest harbors a mutation. In another aspect of the invention, the gene encoding the mutated immunoglobulin polypeptide or single chain antibody may be isolated and expressed in a genetically stable cell. In a preferred embodiment, the mutated antibody is screened for at least one desirable property such as, but not limited to, enhanced binding characteristics.

In another embodiment of the invention, a gene or set of genes encoding for Ig light and heavy chains or a combination therein are introduced into a mammalian cell host that is MMR defective. The cell is grown, and clones are analyzed for antibodies with enhanced binding characteristics.

- 25 In another embodiment of the invention, a method will be provided for producing new phenotypes of a cell. A polynucleotide encoding a dominant negative allele of a MMR gene is introduced into a cell. The cell becomes hypermutable as a result of the introduction of the gene. The cell is grown. The cell is tested for the expression of new phenotypes where the phenotype is enhanced secretion of a polypeptide.

These and other embodiments of the invention provide the art with methods that can generate enhanced mutability in cells and animals as well as providing cells and



animals harboring potentially useful mutations for the large-scale production of high affinity antibodies with beneficial pharmacokinetic profiles.

#### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

5       **Figure 1.** Hybridoma cells stably expressing PMS2 and PMS134 MMR genes. Shown is steady state mRNA expression of MMR genes transfected into a murine hybridoma cell line. Stable expression was found after 3 months of continuous growth. The (-) lanes represent negative controls where no reverse transcriptase was added, and the (+) lanes represent samples reverse transcribed and PCR amplified for the MMR  
10       genes and an internal housekeeping gene as a control.

**Figure 2.** Creation of genetically hypermutable hybridoma cells. Dominant negative MMR gene alleles were expressed in cells expressing a MMR-sensitive reporter gene. Dominant negative alleles such as PMS134 and the expression of MMR genes from other species results in antibody producer cells with a hypermutable phenotype that can be  
15       used to produce genetically altered immunoglobulin genes with enhanced biochemical features as well as lines with increased Ig expression and/or secretion. Values shown represent the amount of converted CPRG substrate which is reflective of the amount of function  $\beta$ -galactosidase contained within the cell from genetic alterations within the pCAR-OF reporter gene. Higher amounts of  $\beta$ -galactosidase activity reflect a higher  
20       mutation rate due to defective MMR.

**Figure 3.** Screening method for identifying antibody-producing cells containing antibodies with increased binding activity and/or increased expression/secretion

**Figure 4.** Generation of a genetically altered antibody with an increased binding activity. Shown are ELISA values from 96-well plates, screened for antibodies specific to  
25       hIgE. Two clones with a high binding value were found in HB134 cultures.

**Figure 5.** Sequence alteration within variable chain of an antibody (a mutation within the light chain variable region in MMR-defective HB134 antibody producer cells). Arrows indicate the nucleotide at which a mutation occurred in a subset of cells from a clone derived from HB134 cells. Panel A: The change results in a Thr to Ser  
30       change within the light chain variable region. The coding sequence is in the antisense direction. Panel B: The change results in a Pro to His change within the light chain variable region.

**Figure 6.** Generation of MMR-defective clones with enhanced steady state Ig

protein levels. A Western blot of heavy chain immunoglobulins from HB134 clones with high levels of MAb (>500ngs/ml) within the conditioned medium shows that a subset of clones express higher steady state levels of immunoglobulins (Ig). The H36 cell line was used as a control to measure steady state levels in the parental strain. Lane 1: fibroblast cells (negative control); Lane 2: H36 cell; Lane 3: HB134 clone with elevated MAb levels; Lane 4: HB134 clone with elevated MAb levels; Lane 5: HB134 clone with elevated MAb levels.

Methods have been discovered for developing hypermutable antibody-producing cells by taking advantage of the conserved mismatch repair (MMR) process of host cells. Dominant negative alleles of such genes, when introduced into cells or transgenic animals, increase the rate of spontaneous mutations by reducing the effectiveness of DNA repair and thereby render the cells or animals hypermutable. Hypermutable cells or animals can then be utilized to develop new mutations in a gene of interest. Blocking MMR in antibody-producing cells such as but not limited to: hybridomas; mammalian cells transfected with genes encoding for Ig light and heavy chains; mammalian cells transfected with genes encoding for single chain antibodies; eukaryotic cells transfected with Ig genes, can enhance the rate of mutation within these cells leading to clones that have enhanced antibody production and/or cells containing genetically altered antibodies with enhanced biochemical properties such as increased antigen binding. The process of MMR, also called mismatch proofreading, is carried out by protein complexes in cells ranging from bacteria to mammalian cells. A MMR gene is a gene that encodes for one of the proteins of such a mismatch repair complex. Although not wanting to be bound by any particular theory of mechanism of action, a MMR complex is believed to detect distortions of the DNA helix resulting from non-complementary pairing of nucleotide bases. The non-complementary base on the newer DNA strand is excised, and the excised base is replaced with the appropriate base, which is complementary to the older DNA strand. In this way, cells eliminate many mutations that occur as a result of mistakes in DNA replication.

Dominant negative alleles cause a MMR defective phenotype even in the presence of a wild-type allele in the same cell. An example of a dominant negative allele of a MMR gene is the human gene *hPMS2-134*, which carries a truncating mutation at codon 134 (SEQ ID NO:15). The mutation causes the product of this gene to abnormally terminate at the position of the 134th amino acid, resulting in a shortened polypeptide containing the N-terminal 133 amino acids. Such a mutation causes an increase in the rate of mutations,

which accumulate in cells after DNA replication. Expression of a dominant negative allele of a mismatch repair gene results in impairment of mismatch repair activity, even in the presence of the wild-type allele. Any allele which produces such effect can be used in this invention. Dominant negative alleles of a MMR gene can be obtained from the cells of humans, animals, yeast, bacteria, or other organisms. Such alleles can be identified by screening cells for defective MMR activity. Cells from animals or humans with cancer can be screened for defective mismatch repair. Cells from colon cancer patients may be particularly useful. Genomic DNA, cDNA, or mRNA from any cell encoding a MMR protein can be analyzed for variations from the wild type sequence. Dominant negative alleles of a MMR gene can also be created artificially, for example, by producing variants of the *hPMS2-134* allele or other MMR genes. Various techniques of site-directed mutagenesis can be used. The suitability of such alleles, whether natural or artificial, for use in generating hypermutable cells or animals can be evaluated by testing the mismatch repair activity caused by the allele in the presence of one or more wild-type alleles, to determine if it is a dominant negative allele.

A cell or an animal into which a dominant negative allele of a mismatch repair gene has been introduced will become hypermutable. This means that the spontaneous mutation rate of such cells or animals is elevated compared to cells or animals without such alleles. The degree of elevation of the spontaneous mutation rate can be at least 2-fold, 5-fold, 10-fold, 20-fold, 50-fold, 100-fold, 200-fold, 500-fold, or 1000-fold that of the normal cell or animal. The use of chemical mutagens such as but limited to methane sulfonate, dimethyl sulfonate, O6-methyl benzadine, MNU, ENU, etc. can be used in MMR defective cells to increase the rates an additional 10 to 100 fold that of the MMR deficiency itself.

According to one aspect of the invention, a polynucleotide encoding for a dominant negative form of a MMR protein is introduced into a cell. The gene can be any dominant negative allele encoding a protein, which is part of a MMR complex, for example, *PMS2*, *PMS1*, *MLH1*, or *MSH2*. The dominant negative allele can be naturally occurring or made in the laboratory. The polynucleotide can be in the form of genomic DNA, cDNA, RNA, or a chemically synthesized polynucleotide.

The polynucleotide can be cloned into an expression vector containing a constitutively active promoter segment (such as but not limited to CMV, SV40, Elongation Factor or LTR sequences) or to inducible promoter sequences such as the steroid inducible

pIND vector (Invitrogen), where the expression of the dominant negative MMR gene can be regulated. The polynucleotide can be introduced into the cell by transfection.

According to another aspect of the invention, an immunoglobulin (Ig) gene, a set of Ig genes or a chimeric gene containing whole or parts of an Ig gene can be transfected into MMR deficient cell hosts, the cell is grown and screened for clones containing genetically altered Ig genes with new biochemical features. MMR defective cells may be of human, primates, mammals, rodent, plant, yeast or of the prokaryotic kingdom. The mutated gene encoding the Ig with new biochemical features may be isolated from the respective clones and introduced into genetically stable cells (*i.e.*, cells with normal MMR) to provide clones that consistently produce Ig with the new biochemical features. The method of isolating the Ig gene encoding Ig with new biochemical features may be any method known in the art. Introduction of the isolated polynucleotide encoding the Ig with new biochemical features may also be performed using any method known in the art, including, but not limited to transfection of an expression vector containing the polynucleotide encoding the Ig with new biochemical features. As an alternative to transfecting an Ig gene, a set of Ig genes or a chimeric gene containing whole or parts of an Ig gene into an MMR deficient host cell, such Ig genes may be transfected simultaneously with a gene encoding a dominant negative mismatch repair gene into a genetically stable cell to render the cell hypermutable.

Transfection is any process whereby a polynucleotide is introduced into a cell. The process of transfection can be carried out in a living animal, *e.g.*, using a vector for gene therapy, or it can be carried out *in vitro*, *e.g.*, using a suspension of one or more isolated cells in culture. The cell can be any type of eukaryotic cell, including, for example, cells isolated from humans or other primates, mammals or other vertebrates, invertebrates, and single celled organisms such as protozoa, yeast, or bacteria.

In general, transfection will be carried out using a suspension of cells, or a single cell, but other methods can also be applied as long as a sufficient fraction of the treated cells or tissue incorporates the polynucleotide so as to allow transfected cells to be grown and utilized. The protein product of the polynucleotide may be transiently or stably expressed in the cell. Techniques for transfection are well known. Available techniques for introducing polynucleotides include but are not limited to electroporation, transduction, cell fusion, the use of calcium chloride, and packaging of the polynucleotide together with lipid for fusion with the cells of interest. Once a cell has been transfected with the MMR

gene, the cell can be grown and reproduced in culture. If the transfection is stable, such that the gene is expressed at a consistent level for many cell generations, then a cell line results.

5 An isolated cell is a cell obtained from a tissue of humans or animals by mechanically separating out individual cells and transferring them to a suitable cell culture medium, either with or without pretreatment of the tissue with enzymes, *e.g.*, collagenase or trypsin. Such isolated cells are typically cultured in the absence of other types of cells. Cells selected for the introduction of a dominant negative allele of a mismatch repair gene may be derived from a eukaryotic organism in the form of a primary cell culture or an  
10 immortalized cell line, or may be derived from suspensions of single-celled organisms.

A polynucleotide encoding for a dominant negative form of a MMR protein can be introduced into the genome of an animal by producing a transgenic animal. The animal can be any species for which suitable techniques are available to produce transgenic animals. For example, transgenic animals can be prepared from domestic livestock, *e.g.*,  
15 bovine, swine, sheep, goats, horses, etc.; from animals used for the production of recombinant proteins, *e.g.*, bovine, swine, or goats that express a recombinant polypeptide in their milk; or experimental animals for research or product testing, *e.g.*, mice, rats, guinea pigs, hamsters, rabbits, etc. Cell lines that are determined to be MMR defective can then be used as a source for producing genetically altered immunoglobulin genes *in vitro*  
20 by introducing whole, intact immunoglobulin genes and/or chimeric genes encoding for single chain antibodies into MMR defective cells from any tissue of the MMR defective animal.

Once a transfected cell line or a colony of transgenic animals has been produced, it can be used to generate new mutations in one or more gene(s) of interest. A gene of  
25 interest can be any gene naturally possessed by the cell line or transgenic animal or introduced into the cell line or transgenic animal. An advantage of using such cells or animals to induce mutations is that the cell or animal need not be exposed to mutagenic chemicals or radiation, which may have secondary harmful effects, both on the object of the exposure and on the workers. However, chemical mutagens may be used in  
30 combination with MMR deficiency, which renders such mutagens less toxic due to an undetermined mechanism. Hypermutable animals can then be bred and selected for those producing genetically variable B-cells that may be isolated and cloned to identify new cell lines that are useful for producing genetically variable cells. Once a new trait is identified,

the dominant negative MMR gene allele can be removed by directly knocking out the allele by technologies used by those skilled in the art or by breeding to mates lacking the dominant negative allele to select for offspring with a desired trait and a stable genome.

Another alternative is to use a CRE-LOX expression system, whereby the dominant

- 5 negative allele is spliced from the animal genome once an animal containing a genetically diverse immunoglobulin profile has been established. Yet another alternative is the use of inducible vectors such as the steroid induced pIND (Invitrogen) or pMAM (Clontech) vectors which express exogenous genes in the presence of corticosteroids.

- Mutations can be detected by analyzing for alterations in the genotype of the cells  
10 or animals, for example by examining the sequence of genomic DNA, cDNA, messenger RNA, or amino acids associated with the gene of interest. Mutations can also be detected by screening for the production of antibody titers. A mutant polypeptide can be detected by identifying alterations in electrophoretic mobility, spectroscopic properties, or other physical or structural characteristics of a protein encoded by a mutant gene. One can also  
15 screen for altered function of the protein *in situ*, in isolated form, or in model systems. One can screen for alteration of any property of the cell or animal associated with the function of the gene of interest, such as but not limited to Ig secretion.

Examples of mismatch repair proteins and nucleic acid sequences include the following:

20

#### PMS2 (mouse) (SEQ ID NO:5)

- MEQTEGVSTE CAAKAIKPIDG KSVHQCISGQ VILSLSTAVK ELIENSVDAG ATTIDLRLKD 60  
YGVDLLEVSD NGCGVEEENF EGLALKHHTS KIQEADLTQ VETPGRGEA LSSLCALSDV 120  
TISTCHGSAS VGTRLVFDHN GKITQKTPYP RPKGTTVSQV HLFYTLPVRY KEFORNIKKE 180  
25 YSKMVQVQA YCIISAGVRV SCTNLQGGK RHAVVCTSGT SGMKENISGV FQKQLQSLI 240  
PFVQLPPSDA VCEYGLSTS GRHKTFTSTFR ASFHSARTAP GSVQQTGSFS SSIRGPVTOQ 300  
RSLSLSMRFY HMYNRHQYPF VVLNVSDVSE CVDINVTDPK RQILLQEKLL LLAVLKTSLI 360  
GMFDSANKL NVNQQLLDV EGNLVKLHTA ELEKVPVGKQ DNSPSLKSTA DEKRVASISR 420  
30 LREAFSLHPT KEIKSRGPET AELTRSFPE KRGVLSSYPS DVISYRGLRG SQDKLVSPDT 480  
SPGDCMDREK IKKDSGLSST SAGSEEFST PEVASSFSSD YNVSSLED RP SOETINCGLD 540  
DCRPPGTGQS LKPEDHGYQC KALPLARLSP TNAKRFKTEE RPSNVNISQR LPPQSTSA 600  
EVDVAIKMNK RIVLLEFSL SLAKRMKQLQ HLKQNKHEL SYRKFRACIK PGENQAAED 660  
LRKEIKSMF AMEILGQFN LGFIVTKLKE DLFLVDQHAA DEKYNFEMIQ QHTVLQAQRL 720  
ITPQTNLTLA VNEAVLIENL EIFRKNGFDF VIDEADPVTE RAKLISLPTS KNWTFGPQDI 780  
35 DELIFMLSDS PGVMCRPSRV RQMFASRACR KSMVIGTALN ASEMKKLITH MGEMDHPWNC 840  
PHGPTMRHV ANLDVISQN 859

#### PMS2 (mouse cDNA) (SEQ ID NO:6)

- 40 gaattccggt gaaggtcctg aagaatttcc agattcctga gtatcattgg aggagacaga 60  
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gtcttttccc gagagcgcca ccgcaactct ccgcgctgtg ctgtgactgg caggtactcg 180  
catcatgga gcaaacgcaa ggcgtgagta cagaatgtgc taaggccatc aagcatttg 240  
atgggaagtc agtccatcaa attgtttctg ggcagggtat actcagttta agcacgcgtc 300  
45 tgaaggagtt gatagaaat agttagatg ctgtgtctac tactattgat ctaaggctta 360

	aagactatgg	ggtggacctt	attgaagttt	cagacaatgg	atgtggggta	gaagaagaaa	420
	accttgaagg	tctagctctg	aaacatcaca	catctaaagt	tcaagagttt	gccgacctca	480
	cgcaagtttg	aacctttggc	tttcgggggg	aagctctgag	ctctctgtgt	gcactaaagt	540
5	atgtcactat	atctacctgc	cacggggtct	caagcgttgc	gactcgaact	gtgtttgacc	600
	aggagatttc	aatcacccga	aaaactccct	accccgcggc	taaaaggaa	acagtcagtg	660
	tgcagcaatt	atctttatca	ctaccogtgc	gttacaaga	gtttcagagg	aacattaaaa	720
	agggattctc	aaaaattggt	caggtcttca	aggcgtactg	tatcatctca	gcaggtctcc	780
	gtgttaagctg	caactaatcag	ctcgagacag	ggaaagcgca	cgctgtgggt	tgcaaacagg	840
	gcacgtctgg	catgaaggaa	aatatcgggt	ctgtgtttgg	ccagaagcag	ttgtaaaagg	900
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	cttcagagcg	ccacaaaaac	ttttctacgt	tctcggtctc	atttcacagt	gcacgagcag	1020
	cgccggggag	agtgcacaag	acaggcaggt	tttcttcac	aatcagaggc	cctgtgacct	1080
	agcaaaaggt	tctaagcttg	tcaatgaggt	tttatcacat	gtataaccgg	catcagtagc	1140
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15	ataaaaggca	aattctacta	caagaagaga	agctatttgt	ggccgtttta	agacacctcc	1260
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	gtgactataa	cgtgagctcc	ctagaagaca	gacctctcca	ggaaaaccata	aactgtggtg	1800
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	aattgcaaa	tccactctca	gctcgtctgt	caccocaaaa	tgccaaagcg	tccaagacag	1920
	aggaagaagc	ctcaaatgtc	aacattctct	aaagattg	tggtctctca	gtcgaactcag	1980
	cagctgaggt	cgatgtagcc	ataaaaatga	ataagagaat	cgtgctctcc	gagtttctct	2040
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	aactgagtta	caagaaattt	agggcccaag	tttgccctgg	agaaaaccac	gcagcagaag	2160
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	actgcccoca	cggaagcgca	accatggagg	tctgtgcaaa	tctggatgtc	atctctcaga	2760
	actgacacac	cccttgtagc	atagagttta	ttacagatgt	tctggtttgc	aaagaagaag	2820
	tttgaattaa	tctgattatc	gttgtacaaa	taatgacatg	ctgctttaat	gtactcggatc	2880
	catttaaaag	caagtgttaa	gcaggcatga	tggagtgctc	ctctagctca	gtactcggatc	2940
	tgatccoggt	ggagctcatg	tgaagccagg	actttggagc	cactccagag	caactcatgt	3000
45	agactcaatt	caaggacaaa	aaaaaaaaa	tatttttgaa	gcctttttaa	aaaaa	3056

## PMS2 (human) (SEQ ID NO:7)

	MERAESSSTE	PAKAIKPIDR	KSVHQICSQG	VVLSLSTAVK	ELVENSNDAG	ATNIDLKLKD	60
	YGVDLLEVSD	NGCGVEEENF	EGLTLLKHTS	KIQEFADLTQ	VETFGFRGEA	LSSLICALSDV	120
50	TISTVCHASAK	VGTRLMFDHN	GKIIQKTFYP	RPRGTTVSQV	QLFSTPLVRH	KFKFRNKKE	180
	YAKMVCQLHA	YCIIISAGIRV	SCTNQLGGQK	RQPVVCTGSS	PSIKENIGSV	FGKQLQSLI	240
	PFVQLPPSDS	VCBEYGLSCS	DALHNLFIYS	GFISQCTHGV	GRSSDTRQFF	FNNRRPCDA	300
	YVQRLVNEVY	HMYNRHYQPF	VVLNISVDSE	CVDINVTDPK	LLIQLQEKLL	LIQVLTSLI	360
	GFMFSDVNKL	NVSGQPLLQV	EGNLIKMHAA	DLEKPMVEKQ	DQSPSLRTGE	EKKDVISIRL	420
55	REAFSLRHIT	ENKPHSPKTP	EPRRSPILGQK	RGMLSSSTSG	ALSDKFLGGS	QKEAVSSSHG	480
	PSDPTDRAEV	EKDSGHGSTS	VDSGEFSPID	TGSHCSSEYA	ASSPGDRSGQ	EHDVDSQKAE	540
	ETDSDSDVD	KSNQEDETGC	KFRVLPPQTN	LATPNTKRFK	KEILLSSSDI	QKQLVNTQDM	600
	SASQVDAVVK	INKKVVLDF	SMSSLAKRIK	QLHHEAQOSE	GEQNYRKFRP	KICPGENQRA	660
	EDELREKIEIS	TMFAEMEIIIG	QFNLFGIITK	LNEIDFIVDQ	HATDEYVLQD	KTCTVTLQD	720
60	QLRLAQTQNL	LTAVNEAVLI	ENLEIFRKNQ	FDFFVIDENAP	VTERAKLISL	PTSRNWTFGP	780
	QDVDELI FML	SDSPGVMCRP	SRVKQMPASR	ACKRSVMIGT	ALNTSEMKKL	ITHMGEDHPH	840
	WNCPHGRPTM	RHIANLGVIS	QN				862

## PMS2 (human cDNA) (SEQ ID NO:8)

	cgaggcggat	cgggtgtgtg	atccatggag	cgagctgaga	gctcagtagc	agaacctgct	60
	aaggcoataa	aacctattga	tcgggaagta	gtccatcaga	tttgctctgg	cgaggtggta	120
5	ctgagcttaa	gcactcgggt	aaaggagtta	gtgaaaaaac	gtctggatgc	tggtggcaact	180
	aatattgtatc	taaaagcttaa	ggactattgga	gtggactctta	ttgaagtttc	agacaatgga	240
	tgtggggtag	aagaagaaaa	cttcgaagcg	tttaactctga	aaactcacac	atctaagatt	300
	caagagtttg	ccgacctaac	tcaggttgaa	acttttggct	ttcggggggg	agctctgagc	360
	tcacttttgg	ctgacgagga	tgtcaccaat	ttctacctgc	acgcctcggc	gaaggttgga	420
10	actcgactga	tgtttgatca	caatgggaaa	attatccaga	aaacccccca	ccccccggcc	480
	agagggacaa	cagtcagcgt	gcagcagtta	ttttccacaa	taactgtcgc	ctacaaggaa	540
	tttcaaaagg	atatataaga	ggagtatggc	aaaatgtgtc	aggtcttaca	tgacatactg	600
	atcattctcag	caggcatccg	tgtaaattgc	accaatcagc	ttggacaagg	aaaaacagac	660
	ctctgtggtat	gcacaggtgg	aagccccaag	ataaaggaaa	atatcggctc	tgtgtttggg	720
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	gaagagtgac	gtttgagctg	ttcggatggt	ctgcataatc	tttttttcat	ctccaggtttc	840
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20	gacttttttaa	agactctctt	gataggaaat	tttgtatgtg	atgtcaacaa	gctaaattgc	1140
	agtccagcagc	caactcgtga	tgttgaaggt	aacttaataa	aaatcgatcg	acggagtttg	1200
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	aagttagttaa	atactcagga	catgtcagcc	tctcaggttg	atgtagctgt	gaaaataatt	1860
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35	catcatgaa	gcagacaaag	tgaaggggaa	cagaattaca	ggaagtttag	ggcaaaagtt	1980
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45	cggaagtccg	tgatgattgg	gactgctctt	aacacaaagc	agatgaagaa	catctacacc	2520
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	atcgccaacc	tggtgtcatc	ttctcagaac	tgacogtagt	caactgtatg	ataaatttgt	2640
	tttatcgacg	atttttatgt	tttgaagac	agagctcttc	ctaacctttt	tgtttttaa	2700
	atgaacctgc	ctacttaaaa	aaaaataaca	tcacacccat	ttaaaagtga	tcttgagaac	2760
	cttttcaaac	c					2771
50	PMS1 (human) (SEQ ID NO:9)						
	MLQLPAAVTR	LLSSSIQITS	VSVVKELIE	NSLDAGATSV	DVKLENYGFD	KIEVRDNGBG	60
	IKAVDAPVMA	MKYKTSKINS	HEDLENLTTY	GFRGEALGSI	CTIAEVLITT	RTAADNFSQT	120
	YVLDDSGHIL	SQKPSHLGGC	TTVTALRLFK	NLPVRFQFYS	TAKCKDDEIK	KQDLIMSPFG	180
55	ILKFDRIWVF	VHNKAVIWOK	SRVSDHKMAL	MSVLGTAVMN	NMESFYQYSE	ESQIYLSGFL	240
	PKCDADHSFT	SLSTPERSFI	FINSRPVHQK	DILKLIRHHY	NLCKLESTRT	LYPVFFLKTD	300
	VFTADVDVNL	TPDKSQVLLQ	NKESVLIALE	NLMTTCYGPL	PSNTSYENNK	TDVSAADIVL	360
	SKTADVDVLF	NKVESSGKNY	SNVDTSVIFP	QNDMHNDESG	KNTDDCLNKG	LPGDFGYGH	420
	NSSEIENLND	ITDKNAFQDIS	MSNVSWENSQ	TEYSKTCFIS	SVKHTQSENG	NKDHIDESGE	480
	CEEAEGLENS	SEISADEWSR	GNILNKSUGE	NIEPVKILVP	EKSLPCKVSP	NNYPIPEQMN	540
60	LNEDSCNKKK	NVIDNKSQKV	TAYDLLSNRV	IKKPMASAL	FVQDHRPQFL	IENPKTSLED	600
	ATLQIEELWK	TLSEEEKLYK	EERATKDLER	YNSQMKRAIE	QESQMSLKDG	RKCKIPTSASG	660
	NLAQKHKLKT	SLSNQPKLDE	LQSQIEKRRR	SONIKMVQIP	FMNKLKINF	KQKNVDLEE	720
	KDEPCLIHNL	RFFDADWLMS	KTEVMLLNFP	RVEEALLFKP	LEHNKLPAE	PLEKFMILTE	780
	SLFNNGSHYLD	VLKMTADDQ	RYSGSTYLSO	PRLTANGFKI	KLI PGVSITE	NYLEIEGDMAN	840
65	CLPFYGVADL	KEILNAILNR	NAKEYVECRP	RKVISYLEGE	AVRLSRQLPM	YLSKEDIQDI	900
	IYRMKQFQGN	EIKECVHGRP	FHHHLYLPE	TT			932



## PMS1 (human) (SEQ ID NO:10)

	ggcagcagtg	gctgccttgcg	gctagtggat	ggtaattgcc	tgccctgcgc	tagcagcaag	60
	ctgctctgtt	aaaagcgaaa	atgaacaacat	tgccctgcgc	aacagttcga	ctcctttcaa	120
5	gtctccagat	catcactctg	gtggctcagtg	ttgtaaaaga	gctttattga	aactccttgg	180
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	aggcagttat	ttggcagaaa	agcagagtat	cagatcacaa	gatggctctc	atgtcagttc	720
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	agttatactc	acatcatcat	aatctgaaat	gcttaaaagg	atctactcgt	ttgtactcgt	960
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	ctgacttggt	tttatattga	aaaaagttcc	acgtatttga	gaaaacacta	ataaactcat	3060
55	aac						3063

## MSH2 (human) (SEQ ID NO:11)

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	GQVIKYMGPA	QKNLQSVVL	SKMNFESFVK	DLILVRLQGR	EYVKNRAGNK	ASKENDWYLA	120
	YKASPGNLG	FEDILFGNND	MSASIGVVG	RMSVDGQRQ	VGVGVVDSIQ	RKLGLCEFPD	180
	NDQFSLNEAL	LQIGPKCEK	LPGGETAGDM	GKLRLQIQRG	GILITERKKA	RTGDKDIYQ	240
	LNRLLEKKGK	EQMNSAVLPE	MENQVAVSSL	SAVIKFLLEL	SDDSNFGQFE	LTFDFFSQYM	300
65	KLDIAAVRAL	NLFQGSVEDT	TGSQSLAALL	NCKRTPQGR	LWNQWIKQPL	MDNRNIEERL	360

	NLVEAFVEDA	ELRQTLQEDL	LRRFPDLNRL	AKKFORQAA	LQDCYRLYQG	INQLPNVIOA	420
	LEKHEGKQHK	LLLAVFVTP	LDLRSDFSKF	QEMIETTLDM	QDVENHEFLV	KPSFDNNESE	480
	LEIRIMNDLEK	LRTEIMLSAA	RLGLDPKGQ	IKLDSSAQFG	YFRVTKCEE	KVLNRNKNFS	540
	TVDIQNGKVG	FTNSKLTSLN	EETYNKNTYE	EEAQDAIVKE	IVN1SSSGVE	PMQTLNDVLA	600
5	QLDAVVSFAH	VFNAGPVVY	RPAILEKGGQ	RIILKASRHA	CVEVQDEIAF	IPNDVYFEKD	660
	KQMFH1ITGP	NMGKSTYIR	QTGVILVMAQ	IGCFVPCESA	EVSVIDCILA	RVGAGDSQLK	720
	GTSTFMAEML	ETASILRSAT	KDSL11IDEL	GRGTSTYDGF	GLAWAISSEI	ATK1GAFCMF	780
	ATHFHELTAL	ANQIPTVNNL	HVTALTTEET	LTMLYQVKGK	VCDQSGFIHV	AELANPFKHV	840
	IECAKQKALE	LEEFQYIGES	QGYDIMEPA	KKCYLEREQG	EKIIQEFLSK	VQMPTTEMS	900
10	EENITIKIKLQ	LKAEVIAKNN	SEFVNEISRI	KVTT			934

## MSH2 (human cDNA) (SEQ ID NO:12)

	ggcgggaaac	agcttagtgg	gtgtgggggtc	ggcatttttc	ttcaaccagg	aggtgaggag	60
	gtttcgacat	ggcgtgcaag	cogaaggaga	cgctgcaggt	ggagagcgcg	cgcgaggctg	120
15	gcttcgtgcg	ctcttttcag	ggcatgcggy	agaaacggac	caccacaggt	cgctcttttcg	180
	accggcgagca	cttcttcagc	gcgcacggcg	aggacgcgct	gctgcggcgc	cgggagggtgt	240
	tcaagacacca	gggggtgac	aagtacatgg	ggccggcagg	agcaaaagag	ctgcagaggtg	300
	ttgtgcttag	taaaatgaat	tttgaattct	ttgtaaaaga	tcttctctgt	gttcgtcaggt	360
20	atagagctga	atagcttaag	aatagagctg	gaataaggcg	atccaaagag	aatgattgggt	420
	atttggtcata	tgagcgcttc	ctctgcgaatc	tctctcaggt	tgaagacatt	ctcttttggtta	480
	acaatgatgt	atagctttcc	attggtgttg	tgggtgttta	aatgtccgca	ttgtgtggcc	540
	agagacaggt	tgagatttgg	tatgtggatt	ccatcacagag	gaaactagga	ctgtgtggaat	600
	tcctcgataa	tgtcagtttc	tccaatcttg	aggctctcct	catccagatt	ggacccaagg	660
	aattgtgtttt	accocggagg	gagactcgtg	gagacatggg	gaaactgaga	cagataattc	720
25	aaagggaggag	aattctgcatc	acagaaaaga	aaaaagctga	cttttccaca	aaagacattgt	780
	atcaggaccc	acacccgggtg	ttgaaaggca	aaaaggaggga	gcagatgaat	agtgctgcat	840
	tgccagaaat	ggagaatcac	gttgcagttt	catcactgtc	tcgggttaact	aaagtttttag	900
	aactcttatc	agatgattcc	aactttggac	agtttgaact	gactactttt	gaactcagcc	960
	tatatataaa	atttgataat	gcagcagctca	gagcccttaa	cctttttcag	ggttctgtgtg	1020
30	aaataaccac	tggtctctcag	tctctgggtg	ccttgctgaa	taagtgtaaa	accocctcaag	1080
	gcacaaagct	tgttaaccag	tggattaaag	agcctctcat	ggataagaaa	agaaatagag	1140
	agagattgaa	tttagtgtaa	gctttttagt	aaagtgcaga	attgaggcag	actttacaag	1200
	aaactttact	tctgcagattc	ccagatctta	acgcagctgc	caagaagtgt	caagaacaag	1260
	tcagcaaacct	acaagattgt	taccgactct	atcaggggtat	aaatacaact	cctaattgta	1320
35	cacagagctct	gcagaaaacat	gaaggaaaac	accagaaatt	attgttggca	gaactatgca	1380
	ctctctctac	tgatctctgt	ctcgtacttc	ccaagtttca	ggaaatgata	gaacaacact	1440
	tatatatgga	tcagggtgaa	aaccatgaat	tctctgttaa	acctctcatt	gctctaactc	1500
	tcagtgaaat	aaagaaaata	atgaatgact	tggaaaagaa	gatgcagctca	acatttaata	1560
40	gtgcagccag	agatctttgc	ttggaacctg	gcaaacagat	taaaactggat	tcocagtgcac	1620
	agttttggata	ttaactttcgt	gtaaacctga	aggaagaaaa	agtcctctgt	aaacataaaa	1680
	acttttagtc	tgtatagata	cagaagaatg	gtgttaaat	taccacaacg	ctatgtgact	1740
	ctttaaagta	agagtatacc	aaaaataaaa	cagaatatag	agaagccagc	gatgccattg	1800
	ttaaagaaat	tgtcaaatatt	tcttcaggct	attgtagaac	aatgcagaca	ctcaatgatg	1860
45	tgttatgctca	gctagatgct	gttgtcagct	ttgtctcagct	gtcaaatgga	gcaactgttc	1920
	catatgtaac	accagccatt	ttggagaag	gcaaggaag	aattatatta	ctgaactcca	1980
	ggcatgctgt	tgttgaatt	caagatgaaa	tgtcattatt	tctcaatgac	gtatactttg	2040
	aaaaagataa	acagatgttc	ccatcatata	cttgcacccaa	tatgggaggt	ataacacaa	2100
	atatctcgaca	aactgggggtg	atagtaactca	tggcccaaat	ttgggtgttt	gtgccaatgt	2160
50	agtcgacaga	agtgctccatt	gtggaactga	tcttagcccg	agtagggcgt	gtgacagctc	2220
	aattgaaagg	agctctccag	ttcatggcgt	aaatgttgg	aactgctctc	atctccaggt	2280
	ctatgcacaa	agtgattcata	ataatcatag	atgaattggg	aagaggaaact	tctacctacg	2340
	agtgatttgg	gttagcatgg	gctatatcag	aatacattgg	acaaaagatt	gggtgctttt	2400
	gcgtgtttgc	aacccatttt	catgaactta	ctgctttggc	caatcagata	ccaactgta	2460
55	ataactacaa	tgtcacagca	ctcacccatt	aaagacacct	aaactatgct	tattcaggtga	2520
	agaaaggtgt	ctgtgatacaa	agttttggga	ttctatgttc	tgagaggtgt	aatttcccta	2580
	agcaatgaa	agagtttgt	aaacagaaag	ccctggaaat	cagcagcaaa	cgatataattg	2640
	agcaagctga	aaaattattt	caggagttcc	gtgtccaggt	gaagtgctat	ctggaaagag	2700
	aaatgtcaga	agaaacacat	acaaataaaa	taaaacagct	gaacaaaagt	cccttactgt	2760
60	agataaag	ctttgtaaat	gaatcatatt	caogaaataa	aaagtctgaa	gtaatatgaa	2820
	catgtaatgga	attgaaggtaa	tattgttaag	ctattgtctg	taattagtttt	atatttgttt	2880
	aaataagccca	tttttccata	gtgttaactg	tcagtgcocca	tggtgctata	acttaataag	2940
	ataatttagta	ataattttact	tgaggagcat	tttcaaaagt	ttttattttg	aaaaatgaga	3000
	gctgtaactg	agagactgtt	gcaattgcaga	taggcaataa	taagtgtatg	gctgaaattt	3060
65	ataataaaaa	tcattgtagt	tgtgg				3120
							3145

## MLH1 (human) (SEQ ID NO:13)

	MSFVAGVIRR	LDETVNNRIA	AGEVIQRPAN	AIKEMIENCL	DAKTSIQVI	VKEGGLKLIQ	60
	IQDNGTGIRK	EDLDIVCFER	TTSKLQSFED	LASISTYGRF	GRALASISHV	ARVTTITTKTA	120
5	DGKCAYRASY	SGDKLKAPPK	PCAGNQTQI	TVEDLFYNIA	TRRKALKNPS	EYEGKILEVV	180
	GRYSVNNAGI	SFSVKQOGST	VADVRLFPNA	STVDNIRSI F	GNVSRRELIE	IGCEDKTLAF	240
	KMNGYISNAN	YSVKKICIFLL	FINHRLVEST	SLRKALETVY	AAVLKPNTHP	FLYLSLEISP	300
	KQNDVNVNPT	KHEVHLFHEE	SILERVQOHI	ESKLLGSNSS	RMYPQTLLP	GLAGPSEGVM	360
	KSTTSSTLSS	TSGSSDKVYA	HQMVRTDSRE	QKDLAFLQPL	SKPLSSQPQA	VIATEDTDIS	420
10	SGRARQDDEE	MLELPAPAEV	AAKNQSLQED	TTKGTSEMSE	KRGPTSSNFR	KRHREDSVDE	480
	MVEDDSRKEM	TAACTPRRRI	INLTSVLSLQ	EEINEQGHVE	LREMLHNHSF	VGCVNQWAL	540
	AQHQTLLYLL	NTTKLSEELF	YQLIYDFAN	FGVLRLESEPA	PLFLDLAMLAL	DSPESGWTEE	600
	DGPKEGLAEY	IVEFLKKKAE	MLADYFSLIE	DEEGLNLGLP	LLIDINYVPLP	EGLPIFLRLR	660
	ATEVNNDEEK	ECFESLSKCE	AMFYISIRKQY	ISEESTLSGQ	QSEVPGPSIN	SWKWTVEHIV	720
15	YKALRSHPIL	PKHFTEDGNI	LQLANLPDLY	KVFERC			756

## MLH1 (human) (SEQ ID NO:14)

	cttggctctt	ctggcgccaa	aatgtcgttc	gtggcagggg	ttattcggcg	gctggacgag	60
	acagtggtga	acocgcatcg	gacgtcgttc	gttatccagc	ggccagctaa	tgctatcaaa	120
20	gagatgattg	agaaactgttt	agatgcaaaa	tccacaagta	tccaagtgat	tgtaaaagag	180
	ggaggcctga	agtggtattca	gatcccaagc	aattggccacc	ggatcagatc	agaagatctg	240
	gatattgtat	gtgaaagggtt	cactactagt	aaactgcagt	cctttgagga	tttagacagt	300
	attcttcaact	tgtgcttttgc	aggtgaggtc	ttggccacga	taagccatgt	gcgtcattgt	360
25	actattacaa	cgaaaaacag	tgatggaaag	tggtcataca	gagcaagtta	ctcagatgga	420
	aaactgaaa	ccctccctaa	accatgtgat	ggcaatcaag	ggacccagga	caaggtggag	480
	gacotttttt	acaacatagc	cacagggaga	aaagctttaa	aaaatccaag	tgaagaatat	540
	gggaaaattt	tggaaattgt	tggcaggtat	ctagtaacac	atgcaggcat	tagttttcca	600
	tgtaaaaaac	aaggagagac	agtagctgat	gttaggacac	tacccaatgc	ctcaaacogt	660
	gacaaatttc	gctccatctt	tgaaaatgat	gttagtcgag	aactgataga	aattggaagt	720
30	gaggataaaa	ccctagcctt	caaaatgaat	ggttatcatat	ccaatgcaaa	ctactcagtg	780
	aagaagtgc	tcttttact	cttcataaac	catogtctgg	tagaatccaa	ttccttgaga	840
	aaagccatag	aaaacagtga	tgacgcctat	ttgccccaaa	acacacaccc	attcctgtat	900
	ctcagtttgc	aaatcagtc	ccagaatgtg	gatgttaatg	tgacccccc	aaagctgaa	960
35	cttcaacttc	tgcaacagga	gagcatcctg	gagcgggtgc	agcagcacat	ccagagccag	1020
	ctctcggctc	ccaatctctc	caggatgtac	ttcacccaga	ctttgctacc	aggacttgtc	1080
	ggccccctcg	gggagatggt	taaatccaca	acaagctctg	cctcgtcttc	tactttcgga	1140
	agtagtgata	aggtctatgc	ccaccagatg	gttctgtacg	attccccgga	acagaagctt	1200
	gatgcatttc	tgacgcctct	gagcaaaccc	ctgtccagct	agccccaggg	catgtgcaca	1260
40	gaggatgaag	cagagatttct	tagtggcagg	gctaggcagc	gctaggcagc	gatgtctgaa	1320
	ctccccagcc	ctgctggaat	ggctgccaaa	aatccagagct	tggaagggga	tacacaaag	1380
	gggaacttcg	aaatgtcaga	gaagagagga	cactactcca	gaacccccag	aaagagacat	1440
	cgggaagatt	ctgatgtgga	aattgttgga	gatgatcccc	gaagagaaat	gactgcagct	1500
	tgtacccccc	tgagaagagt	ctataaccct	actagtgttt	tgagctccca	ggaagaaatt	1560
45	aatgagcagg	gacatcaggt	tctccggagg	atgttgcaata	agactctcca	gctgggtcgt	1620
	gtgaactctc	agtgggcctt	ggcacagcat	caaacagaat	tataactctc	caacacccc	1680
	aagcttagtg	aagaactgtt	ctaccagata	ctcattatgt	attttgcaaa	ttttgttgtt	1740
	ctcaggttat	ggagagcagg	acogctcttt	gaacttgcca	tgcttgctct	agatagtcga	1800
	gagagtggtg	ggaacagagga	atgatgtccc	aaagaaggac	tgcttgataa	catgtgttag	1860
	ttctgtgaag	ggaaggtctg	gatgtctgca	gactatttct	ctttggaaat	tgatgaggaa	1920
50	gggaactcga	tgtgattaac	cctctgattt	gacaaactag	tgccccctct	ggaggagact	1980
	ccatctctca	ttctctgaat	agccactgag	gtgaattggg	acgaagaaata	ggaattgttt	2040
	gaaagctcga	gtaaagaaat	gcctatgttc	tattccatcc	ggaagcagta	tattctctgag	2100
	gagtcagacc	tctcaggcca	gcagagtga	gtgcctggct	ccattccaaa	ctctcggaag	2160
	tggactgttg	aaacacattg	ctataaagcc	ttgcctgcac	acattctgcc	ctctaaacat	2220
55	tctcacagaa	atggaatat	cctgcagctt	gctaaactgc	ctgatctata	caaagtcttt	2280
	gagagagtag	aaatatggtt	atttatgcac	tgtggaggtg	gtttctcttt	ctctgtatct	2340
	cgtatcaaaa	tgtttgatca	aagtgtgata	tacaagaagt	accaaataaa	gtgttgtag	2400
	acattaaagc	ttatacttgc	cctctgatag	tattccttta	tacacagtgg	attgatata	2460
60	aataaataga	tgtgtcttaa	cata				2484

## hPMS2-134 (human) (SEQ ID NO:15)

MERAESSTE PAKAIKPIDR KSVHQICSGQ VVLSLSTAVK ELVENSIDAG ATNIDLKDKD 60  
 YGVDLIEVSD NGCGVEEENF EGLTLKHHTS KIQEFADLTQ VETFGFRGEA LSSLCALSDV 120  
 TISTCHASAK VGT 133

5 hPMS2-134 (human cDNA) (SEQ ID NO:16)

cgaggccgat cgggtgttgc atccatggag cgagctgaga gctcgagtac agaacctgct 60  
 aaggccatca aacctattga tcggaagtca gtccatcaga ttgctctggc gcaggtggta 120  
 ctgagctctaa gcaactgcggc aaaggagttta gtgaaacaa gctctggatgc tgggtccact 180  
 10 aaattattgac taaagcttaa ggaactatgga gtggatctta ttgaagtctc agacaatgga 240  
 tgtgtggtag aagaagaaaa ctgcgaaggc ttaactctga aacatcacac atctaagatt 300  
 caagagtttg ccgacctaac tcaggttgaa acttttgctc ttcgggggga agctctgagc 360  
 tcactttgtg cactgagcga tgtcaccatt tctacctgcc acgcatcgcc gaaggttgga 420  
 acttga 426

15 For further information on the background of the invention the following  
 references may be consulted, each of which is incorporated herein by reference in its  
 entirety:

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The above disclosure generally describes the present invention. A more complete understanding can be obtained by reference to the following specific examples which are provided herein for purposes of illustration only, and are not intended to limit the scope of the invention.

#### **EXAMPLE 1: Stable expression of dominant negative MMR genes in hybridoma cells**

It has been previously shown by Nicolaides *et al.* (Nicolaides *et al.* (1998) A Naturally Occurring hPMS2 Mutation Can Confer a Dominant Negative Mutator Phenotype *Mol. Cell. Biol.* 18:1635-1641) that the expression of a dominant negative allele in an otherwise MMR proficient cell could render these host cells MMR deficient. The creation of MMR deficient cells can lead to the generation of genetic alterations

throughout the entire genome of a host organisms offspring, yielding a population of genetically altered offspring or siblings that may produce biochemicals with altered properties. This patent application teaches of the use of dominant negative MMR genes in antibody-producing cells, including but not limited to rodent hybridomas, human hybridomas, chimeric rodent cells producing human immunoglobulin gene products, human cells expressing immunoglobulin genes, mammalian cells producing single chain antibodies, and prokaryotic cells producing mammalian immunoglobulin genes or chimeric immunoglobulin molecules such as those contained within single-chain antibodies. The cell expression systems described above that are used to produce antibodies are well known by those skilled in the art of antibody therapeutics.

To demonstrate the ability to create MMR defective hybridomas using dominant negative alleles of MMR genes, we first transfected a mouse hybridoma cell line that is known to produce and antibody directed against the human IgE protein with an expression vector containing the human PMS2 (cell line referred to as HBPM2), the previously published dominant negative PMS2 mutant referred herein as PMS134 (cell line referred to as HB134), or with no insert (cell line referred to as HBvec). The results showed that the PMS134 mutant could indeed exert a robust dominant negative effect, resulting in biochemical and genetic manifestations of MMR deficiency. Unexpectedly was the finding that the full length PMS2 also resulted in a lower MMR activity while no effect was seen in cells containing the empty vector. A brief description of the methods is provided below.

The MMR proficient mouse H36 hybridoma cell line was transfected with various *hPMS2* expression plasmids plus reporter constructs for assessing MMR activity. The MMR genes were cloned into the pEF expression vector, which contains the elongation factor promoter upstream of the cloning site followed by a mammalian polyadenylation signal. This vector also contains the NEO<sup>r</sup> gene that allows for selection of cells retaining this plasmid. Briefly, cells were transfected with 1 µg of each vector using polyliposomes following the manufacturer's protocol (Life Technologies). Cells were then selected in 0.5 mg/ml of G418 for 10 days and G418 resistant cells were pooled together to analyze for gene expression. The pEF construct contains an intron that separates the exon 1 of the EF gene from exon 2, which is juxtaposed to the 5' end of the polylinker cloning site. This allows for a rapid reverse transcriptase polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) screen for cells expressing the spliced

products. At day 17, 100,000 cells were isolated and their RNA extracted using the trizol method as previously described (Nicolaidis N.C., Kinzler, K.W., and Vogelstein, B. (1995) Analysis of the 5' region of PMS2 reveals heterogeneous transcripts and a novel overlapping gene. *Genomics* 29:329-334). RNAs were reverse transcribed using 5 Superscript II (Life Technologies) and PCR amplified using a sense primer located in exon 1 of the EF gene (5'-ttt cgc aac ggg ttt gcc g-3') and an antisense primer (5'-gtt tca gag tta agc ctt cg-3') centered at nt 283 of the published human PMS2 cDNA, which will detect both the full length as well as the PMS134 gene expression. Reactions were carried out using buffers and conditions as previously described (Nicolaidis, N.C., *et al.* (1995) Genomic organization of the human PMS2 gene family. *Genomics* 30:195-206), using the following amplification parameters: 94°C for 30 sec, 52°C for 2 min, 72°C for 2 min, for 30 cycles. Reactions were analyzed on agarose gels. Figure 1 shows a representative example of PMS expression in stably transduced H36 cells.

Expression of the protein encoded by these genes were confirmed via western blot using a polyclonal antibody directed to the first 20 amino acids located in the N-terminus of the protein following the procedures previously described (data not shown) (Nicolaidis *et al.* (1998) A Naturally Occurring hPMS2 Mutation Can Confer a Dominant Negative Mutator Phenotype. *Mol. Cell. Biol.* 18:1635-1641.

## 20 **EXAMPLE 2: hPMS134 Causes a Defect in MMR Activity and hypermutability in hybridoma cells**

A hallmark of MMR deficiency is the generation of unstable microsatellite repeats in the genome of host cells. This phenotype is referred to as microsatellite instability (MI) (Modrich, P. (1994) Mismatch repair, genetic stability, and cancer *Science* 266:1959-1960; Palombo, F., *et al.* (1994) Mismatch repair and cancer *Nature* 364:17). MI consists of deletions and/or insertions within repetitive mono-, di- and/or tri nucleotide repetitive sequences throughout the entire genome of a host cell. Extensive genetic analysis eukaryotic cells have found that the only biochemical defect that is capable of producing MI is defective MMR (Strand, M., *et al.* (1993) Destabilization of tracts of simple repetitive DNA in yeast by mutations affecting DNA mismatch repair *Nature* 365:274-276; Perucho, M. (1996) Cancer of the microsatellite mutator phenotype. *Biol Chem.* 377:675-684; Eshleman J.R., and Markowitz, S.D. (1996) Mismatch repair defects in human carcinogenesis. *Hum. Mol. Genet.* 5:1489-494). In light of this unique feature



- that defective MMR has on promoting MI, it is now used as a biochemical marker to survey for lack of MMR activity within host cells (Perucho, M. (1996) Cancer of the microsatellite mutator phenotype. *Biol Chem.* 377:675-684; Eshleman J.R., and Markowitz, S.D. (1996) Mismatch repair defects in human carcinogenesis. *Hum. Mol. Genet.* 5:1489-494; Liu, T., *et al.* (2000) Microsatellite instability as a predictor of a mutation in a DNA mismatch repair gene in familial colorectal cancer *Genes Chromosomes Cancer* 27:17-25).

- A method used to detect MMR deficiency in eukaryotic cells is to employ a reporter gene that has a polynucleotide repeat inserted within the coding region that disrupts its reading frame due to a frame shift. In the case where MMR is defective, the reporter gene will acquire random mutations (i.e. insertions and/or deletions) within the polynucleotide repeat yielding clones that contain a reporter with an open reading frame. We have employed the use of an MMR-sensitive reporter gene to measure for MMR activity in HBvec, HBPMS2, and HBPMS134 cells. The reporter construct used the pCAR-OF, which contains a hygromycin resistance (HYG) gene plus a  $\beta$ -galactosidase gene containing a 29 bp out-of-frame poly-CA tract at the 5' end of its coding region. The pCAR-OF reporter would not generate  $\beta$ -galactosidase activity unless a frame-restoring mutation (i.e., insertion or deletion) arose following transfection. HBvec, HBPMS2, and HB134 cells were each transfected with pCAR-OF vector in duplicate reactions following the protocol described in Example 1. Cells were selected in 0.5 mg/ml G418 and 0.5mg/ml HYG to select for cells retaining both the MMR effector and the pCAR-OF reporter plasmids. All cultures transfected with the pCAR vector resulted in a similar number of HYG/G418 resistant cells. Cultures were then expanded and tested for  $\beta$ -galactosidase activity *in situ* as well as by biochemical analysis of cell extracts. For *in situ* analysis, 100,000 cells were harvested and fixed in 1% glutaraldehyde, washed in phosphate buffered saline solution and incubated in 1 ml of X-gal substrate solution [0.15 M NaCl, 1 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub>, 3.3 mM K<sub>4</sub>Fe(CN)<sub>6</sub>, 3.3 mM K<sub>3</sub>Fe(CN)<sub>6</sub>, 0.2% X-Gal ] in 24 well plates for 2 hours at 37°C. Reactions were stopped in 500 mM sodium bicarbonate solution and transferred to microscope slides for analysis. Three fields of 200 cells each were counted for blue ( $\beta$ -galactosidase positive cells) or white ( $\beta$ -galactosidase negative cells) to assess for MMR inactivation. Table 1 shows the results from these studies. While no  $\beta$ -galactosidase positive cells were observed in HBvec cells, 10% of the cells per

field were  $\beta$ -galactosidase positive in HB134 cultures and 2% of the cells per field were  $\beta$ -galactosidase positive in HBPMS2 cultures.

Cell extracts were prepared from the above cultures to measure  $\beta$ -galactosidase using a quantitative biochemical assay as previously described (Nicolaidis *et al.* (1998) A Naturally Occurring hPMS2 Mutation Can Confer a Dominant Negative Mutator Phenotype *Mol. Cell. Biol.* 18:1635-1641; Nicolaidis, N.C., *et al.* (1992) The Jun family members, c-JUN and JUND, transactivate the human *c-myc* promoter via an Ap1 like element. *J. Biol. Chem.* 267:19665-19672). Briefly, 100,000 cells were collected, centrifuged and resuspended in 200  $\mu$ l of 0.25M Tris, pH 8.0. Cells were lysed by freeze/thawing three times and supernatants collected after microfugation at 14,000 rpm to remove cell debris. Protein content was determined by spectrophotometric analysis at OD<sup>280</sup>. For biochemical assays, 20  $\mu$ g of protein was added to buffer containing 45 mM 2-mercaptoethanol, 1mM MgCl<sub>2</sub>, 0.1 M NaPO<sub>4</sub>, and 0.6 mg/ml Chlorophenol red- $\beta$ -D-galactopyranoside (CPRG, Boehringer Mannheim). Reactions were incubated for 1 hour, terminated by the addition of 0.5 M Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub>, and analyzed by spectrophotometry at 576 nm. H36 cell lysates were used to subtract out background. Figure 2 shows the  $\beta$ -galactosidase activity in extracts from the various cell lines. As shown, the HB134 cells produced the highest amount of  $\beta$ -galactosidase, while no activity was found in the HBvec cells containing the pCAR-OF. These data demonstrate the ability to generate MMR defective hybridoma cells using dominant negative MMR gene alleles.

**Table 1.**  $\beta$ -galactosidase expression of HBvec, HBPMS2 and HB134 cells transfected with pCAR-OF reporter vectors. Cells were transfected with the pCAR-OF  $\beta$ -galactosidase reporter plasmid. Transfected cells were selected in hygromycin and G418, expanded and stained with X-gal solution to measure for  $\beta$ -galactosidase activity (blue colored cells). 3 fields of 200 cells each were analyzed by microscopy. The results below represent the mean  $\pm$  standard deviation of these experiments.

produced by each clone. Reactions are stopped by adding 50 µls of 500mM sodium bicarbonate and analyzed by OD at 415nm using a BioRad plate reader. Clones exhibiting an enhanced signal over background cells (H36 control cells) are then isolated and expanded into 10 ml cultures for additional characterization and confirmation of ELISA data in triplicate experiments. ELISAs are also performed on conditioned (CM) from the same clones to measure total Ig production within the conditioned medium of each well. Clones that produce an increased ELISA signal and have increased antibody levels are then further analyzed for variants that over-express and/or over-secrete antibodies as described in Example 4. Analysis of five 96-well plates each from HBvec or HB134 cells have found that a significant number of clones with a higher Optical Density (OD) value is observed in the MMR-defective HB134 cells as compared to the HBvec controls. Figure 4 shows a representative example of HB134 clones producing antibodies that bind to specific antigen (in this case IgE) with a higher affinity. Figure 4 provides raw data from the analysis of 96 wells of HBvec (left graph) or HB134 (right graph) which shows 2 clones from the HB134 plate to have a higher OD reading due to 1) genetic alteration of the antibody variable domain that leads to an increased binding to IgE antigen, or 2) genetic alteration of a cell host that leads to over-production/secretion of the antibody molecule. Anti-Ig ELISA found that the two clones, shown in figure 4 have Ig levels within their CM similar to the surrounding wells exhibiting lower OD values. These data suggest that a genetic alteration occurred within the antigen binding domain of the antibody which in turn allows for higher binding to antigen.

Clones that produced higher OD values as determined by ELISA were further analyzed at the genetic level to confirm that mutations within the light or heavy chain variable region have occurred that lead to a higher binding affinity hence yielding to a stronger ELISA signal. Briefly, 100,000 cells are harvested and extracted for RNA using the Triazol method as described above. RNAs are reverse transcribed using Superscript II as suggested by the manufacturer (Life Technology) and PCR amplified for the antigen binding sites contained within the variable light and heavy chains. Because of the heterogeneous nature of these genes, the following degenerate primers are used to amplify light and heavy chain alleles from the parent H36 strain.

Light chain sense: 5'-GGA TTT TCA GGT GCA GAT TTT CAG-3' (SEQ ID NO:1)

Light chain antisense: 5'-ACT GGA TGG TGG GAA GAT GGA-3' (SEQ ID NO:2)

Heavy chain sense: 5'-A(G/T) GTN (A/C)AG CTN CAG (C/G)AG TC-3' (SEQ ID NO:3)

- 5 Heavy chain antisense: 5'-TNC CTT G(A/G)C CCC AGT A(G/A)(A/T)C-3' (SEQ ID NO:4)

PCR reactions using degenerate oligonucleotides are carried out at 94°C for 30 sec, 52°C for 1 min, and 72°C for 1 min for 35 cycles. Products are analyzed on agarose gels.

- 10 Products of the expected molecular weights are purified from the gels by Gene Clean (Bio 101), cloned into T-tailed vectors, and sequenced to identify the wild type sequence of the variable light and heavy chains. Once the wild type sequence has been determined, non-degenerate primers were made for RT-PCR amplification of positive HB134 clones. Both the light and heavy chains were amplified, gel purified and sequenced using the
- 15 corresponding sense and antisense primers. The sequencing of RT-PCR products gives representative sequence data of the endogenous immunoglobulin gene and not due to PCR induced mutations. Sequences from clones were then compared to the wild type sequence for sequence comparison. An example of the ability to create *in vivo* mutations within an immunoglobulin light or heavy chain is shown in figure 5, where HB134 clone92 was
- 20 identified by ELISA to have an increased signal for hIgE. The light chain was amplified using specific sense and antisense primers. The light chain was RT-PCR amplified and the resulting product was purified and analyzed on an automated ABI377 sequencer. As shown in clone A, a residue -4 upstream of the CDR region 3 had a genetic change from ACT to TCT, which results in a Thr to Ser change within the framework region just
- 25 preceding the CDR#3. In clone B, a residue -6 upstream of the CDR region had a genetic change from CCC to CTC, which results in a Pro to His change within framework region preceding CDR#2.

The ability to generate random mutations in immunoglobulin genes or chimeric immunoglobulin genes is not limited to hybridomas. Nicolaides et al. (Nicolaides *et al.*

- 30 (1998) A Naturally Occurring hPMS2 Mutation Can Confer a Dominant Negative Mutator Phenotype *Mol. Cell. Biol.* 18:1635-1641) has previously shown the ability to generate hypermutable hamster cells and produce mutations within an endogenous gene. A common method for producing humanized antibodies is to graft CDR sequences from a MAB

(produced by immunizing a rodent host) onto a human Ig backbone, and transfection of the chimeric genes into Chinese Hamster Ovary (CHO) cells which in turn produce a functional Ab that is secreted by the CHO cells (Shields, R.L., *et al.* (1995) Anti-IgE monoclonal antibodies that inhibit allergen-specific histamine release. *Int. Arch. Allergy Immunol.*

- 5 107:412-413). The methods described within this application are also useful for generating genetic alterations within Ig genes or chimeric Igs transfected within host cells such as rodent cell lines, plants, yeast and prokaryotes (Frigerio L., *et al.* (2000) Assembly, secretion, and vacuolar delivery of a hybrid immunoglobulin in plants. *Plant Physiol.* 123:1483-1494).

- 10 These data demonstrate the ability to generate hypermutable hybridomas, or other Ig producing host cells that can be grown and selected, to identify structurally altered immunoglobulins yielding antibodies with enhanced biochemical properties, including but not limited to increased antigen binding affinity. Moreover, hypermutable clones that contain missense mutations within the immunoglobulin gene that result in an amino acid
- 15 change or changes can be then further characterized for *in vivo* stability, antigen clearance, on-off binding to antigens, etc. Clones can also be further expanded for subsequent rounds of *in vivo* mutations and can be screened using the strategy listed above.

- The use of chemical mutagens to produce genetic mutations in cells or whole organisms are limited due to the toxic effects that these agents have on "normal" cells. The
- 20 use of chemical mutagens such as MNU in MMR defective organisms is much more tolerable yielding to a 10 to 100 fold increase in genetic mutation over MMR deficiency alone (Bignami M, (2000) Unmasking a killer: DNA O(6)-methylguanine and the cytotoxicity of methylating agents. *Mutat. Res.* 462:71-82). This strategy allows for the use of chemical mutagens to be used in MMR-defective Ab producing cells as a method for
- 25 increasing additional mutations within immunoglobulin genes or chimeras that may yield functional Abs with altered biochemical properties such as enhanced binding affinity to antigen, etc.

**Example 4: Generation of antibody producing cells with enhanced antibody production**

Analysis of clones from H36 and HB134 following the screening strategy listed above has identified a significant number of clones that produce enhanced amounts of antibody into the medium. While a subset of these clones gave higher Ig binding data as determined by ELISA as a consequence of mutations within the antigen binding domains contained in the variable regions, others were found to contain "enhanced" antibody production. A summary of the clones producing enhanced amounts of secreted MAb is shown in TABLE 2, where a significant number of clones from HB134 cells were found to produce enhanced Ab production within the conditioned medium as compared to H36 control cells.

**TABLE 2.** Generation of hybridoma cells producing high levels of antibody. HB134 clones were assayed by ELISA for elevated Ig levels. Analysis of 480 clones showed that a significant number of clones had elevated MAb product levels in their CM. Quantification showed that several of these clones produced greater than 500ngs/ml of MAb due to either enhanced expression and/or secretion as compared to clones from the H36 cell line.

**Table 2. Production of MAb in CM from H36 and HB134 clones.**

Cell Line	% clones > 400 ng/ml	% clones >500 ng/ml
H36	1/480 = 0.2%	0/480 = 0%
HB134	50/480 = 10%	8/480 = 1.7%

Cellular analysis of HB134 clones with higher MAb levels within the conditioned medium (CM) were analyzed to determine if the increased production was simply due to genetic alterations at the Ig locus that may lead to over-expression of the polypeptides forming the antibody, or due to enhanced secretion due to a genetic alteration affecting secretory pathway mechanisms. To address this issue, we expanded three HB134 clones that had increased levels of antibody within their CM. 10,000 cells were prepared for western blot analysis to assay for intracellular steady state Ig protein levels (Figure 6). In addition, H36 cells were used as a standard reference (Lane 2) and a rodent fibroblast (Lane 1) was used as an Ig negative control. Briefly, cells were pelleted by centrifugation and lysed directly in 300  $\mu$ l of SDS lysis buffer (60 mM Tris, pH 6.8, 2% SDS, 10% glycerol,

- 0.1 M 2-mercaptoethanol, 0.001% bromophenol blue) and boiled for 5 minutes. Lysate proteins were separated by electrophoresis on 4-12% NuPAGE gels (for analysis of Ig heavy chain. Gels were electroblotted onto Immobilon-P (Millipore) in 48 mM Tris base, 40 mM glycine, 0.0375% SDS, 20% methanol and blocked at room temperature for 1 hour
- 5 in Tris-buffered saline (TBS) plus 0.05% Tween-20 and 5% condensed milk. Filters were probed with a 1:10,000 dilution of sheep anti-mouse horseradish peroxidase conjugated monoclonal antibody in TBS buffer and detected by chemiluminescence using Supersignal substrate (Pierce). Experiments were repeated in duplicates to ensure reproducibility. Figure 6 shows a representative analysis where a subset of clones had enhanced Ig
- 10 production which accounted for increased Ab production (Lane 5) while others had a similar steady state level as the control sample, yet had higher levels of Ab within the CM. These data suggest a mechanism whereby a subset of HB134 clones contained a genetic alteration that in turn produces elevated secretion of antibody.

- The use of chemical mutagens to produce genetic mutations in cells or whole
- 15 organisms are limited due to the toxic effects that these agents have on "normal" cells. The use of chemical mutagens such as MNU in MMR defective organisms is much more tolerable yielding to a 10 to 100 fold increase in genetic mutation over MMR deficiency alone (Bignami M, (2000) Unmasking a killer: DNA O(6)-methylguanine and the cytotoxicity of methylating agents. *Mutat. Res.* 462:71-82). This strategy allows for the
- 20 use of chemical mutagens to be used in MMR-defective Ab producing cells as a method for increasing additional mutations within immunoglobulin genes or chimeras that may yield functional Abs with altered biochemical properties such as enhanced binding affinity to antigen, etc.

25 **Example 5: establishment of genetic stability in hybridoma cells with new output trait.**

- The initial steps of MMR are dependent on two protein complexes, called MutS $\alpha$  and MutL $\alpha$  (Nicolaidis *et al.* (1998) A Naturally Occurring hPMS2 Mutation Can Confer a Dominant Negative Mutator Phenotype. *Mol. Cell. Biol.* 18:1635-1641). Dominant
- 30 negative MMR alleles are able to perturb the formation of these complexes with downstream biochemicals involved in the excision and polymerization of nucleotides comprising the "corrected" nucleotides. Examples from this application show the ability of a truncated MMR allele (PMS134) as well as a full length human PMS2 when expressed in

a hybridoma cell line is capable of blocking MMR resulting in a hypermutable cell line that gains genetic alterations throughout its entire genome per cell division. Once a cell line is produced that contains genetic alterations within genes encoding for an antibody, a single chain antibody, over expression of immunoglobulin genes and/or enhanced secretion of antibody, it is desirable to restore the genomic integrity of the cell host. This can be achieved by the use of inducible vectors whereby dominant negative MMR genes are cloned into such vectors, introduced into Ab producing cells and the cells are cultured in the presence of inducer molecules and/or conditions. Inducible vectors include but are not limited to chemical regulated promoters such as the steroid inducible MMTV, tetracycline regulated promoters, temperature sensitive MMR gene alleles, and temperature sensitive promoters.

The results described above lead to several conclusions. First, expression of hPMS2 and PMS134 results in an increase in microsatellite instability in hybridoma cells. That this elevated microsatellite instability is due to MMR deficiency was proven by evaluation of extracts from stably transduced cells. The expression of PMS134 results in a polar defect in MMR, which was only observed using heteroduplexes designed to test repair from the 5' direction (no significant defect in repair from the 3' direction was observed in the same extracts) (Nicolaidis *et al.* (1998) A Naturally Occurring hPMS2 Mutation Can Confer a Dominant Negative Mutator Phenotype. *Mol. Cell. Biol.* 18:1635-1641). Interestingly, cells deficient in hMLH1 also have a polar defect in MMR, but in this case preferentially affecting repair from the 3' direction (Drummond, J.T. *et al.* (1996) Cisplatin and adriamycin resistance are associated with MutLa and mismatch repair deficiency in an ovarian tumor cell line. *J. Biol. Chem.* 271:9645-19648). It is known from previous studies in both prokaryotes and eukaryotes that the separate enzymatic components mediate repair from the two different directions. Our results, in combination with those of Drummond *et al.* (Shields, R.L., *et al.* (1995) Anti-IgE monoclonal antibodies that inhibit allergen-specific histamine release. *Int. Arch Allergy Immunol.* 107:412-413), strongly suggest a model in which 5' repair is primarily dependent on hPMS2 while 3' repair is primarily dependent on hMLH1. It is easy to envision how the dimeric complex between PMS2 and MLH1 might set up this directionality. The combined results also demonstrate that a defect in directional MMR is sufficient to produce a MMR defective phenotype and suggests that any MMR gene allele is useful to produce genetically altered hybridoma cells, or a cell line that is producing Ig gene products. Moreover, the use of



such MMR alleles will be useful for generating genetically altered Ig polypeptides with altered biochemical properties as well as cell hosts that produce enhanced amounts of antibody molecules.

- Another method that is taught in this application is that ANY method used to block MMR can be performed to generate hypermutability in an antibody-producing cell that can lead to genetically altered antibodies with enhanced biochemical features such as but not limited to increased antigen binding, enhanced pharmacokinetic profiles, etc. These processes can also be used to generate antibody producer cells that have increased Ig expression as shown in Example 4, figure 6 and/or increased antibody secretion as shown in Table 2.

In addition, we demonstrate the utility of blocking MMR in antibody producing cells to increase genetic alterations within Ig genes that may lead to altered biochemical features such as, but not limited to, increased antigen binding affinities (Figure 5A and 5B).

- The blockade of MMR in such cells can be through the use of dominant negative MMR gene alleles from any species including bacteria, yeast, protozoa, insects, rodents, primates, mammalian cells, and man. Blockade of MMR can also be generated through the use of antisense RNA or deoxynucleotides directed to any of the genes involved in the MMR biochemical pathway. Blockade of MMR can be through the use of polypeptides that interfere with subunits of the MMR complex including but not limited to antibodies.
- Finally, the blockade of MMR may be through the use chemicals such as but not limited to nonhydrolyzable ATP analogs, which have been shown to block MMR (Galio, L, *et al.* (1999) ATP hydrolysis-dependent formation of a dynamic ternary nucleoprotein complex with MutS and MutL. *Nucl. Acids Res.* 27:2325-23231).

## WE CLAIM:

1. A method for making a hypermutable, antibody producing cell, comprising introducing into a cell capable of producing antibodies a polynucleotide comprising a dominant negative allele of a mismatch repair gene.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein said polynucleotide is introduced by transfection of a suspension of cells *in vitro*.
3. The method of claim 1 wherein said mismatch repair gene is *PMS2*.
4. The method of claim 1 wherein said mismatch repair gene is human *PMS2*.
5. The method of claim 1 wherein said mismatch repair gene is *MLH1*.
6. The method of claim 1 wherein said mismatch repair gene is *PMS1*.
7. The method of claim 1 wherein said mismatch repair gene is *MSH2*.
8. The method of claim 1 wherein said mismatch repair gene is *MSH2*.
9. The method of claim 4 wherein said allele comprises a truncation mutation.
10. The method of claim 4 wherein said allele comprises a truncation mutation at codon 134.
11. The method of claim 10 wherein said truncation mutation is a thymidine at nucleotide 424 of wild-type *PMS2*.
12. The method of claim 1 wherein said polynucleotide is introduced into a fertilized egg of an animal.
13. The method of claim 12 wherein the fertilized egg is subsequently implanted into a pseudo-pregnant female whereby the fertilized egg develops into a mature transgenic animal.
14. The method of claim 12 wherein said mismatch repair gene is *PMS2*.
15. The method of claim 12 wherein said mismatch repair gene is human *PMS2*.
16. The method of claim 12 wherein said mismatch repair gene is human *MLH1*.
17. The method of claim 12 wherein said mismatch repair gene is human *PMS1*.
18. The method of claim 11 wherein said mismatch repair gene is a human *mutL* homolog.
19. The method of claim 15 wherein said allele comprises a truncation mutation.
20. The method of claim 15 wherein said allele comprises a truncation mutation at codon 134.
21. The method of claim 19 wherein said truncation mutation is a thymidine at nucleotide 424 of wild-type *PMS2*.

22. The method of claim 1 wherein said capability is due to the co-introduction of an immunoglobulin gene into said cell.
23. A homogeneous culture of hypermutable, mammalian cells wherein said cells comprise a dominant negative allele of a mismatch repair gene.
24. The culture of hypermutable, mammalian cells of claim 23 wherein the mismatch repair gene is *PMS2*.
25. The culture of hypermutable, mammalian cells of claim 24 wherein the mismatch repair gene is human *PMS2*.
26. The culture of hypermutable, mammalian cells of claim 23 wherein the mismatch repair gene is *MLH1*.
27. The culture of hypermutable, mammalian cells of claim 23 wherein the mismatch repair gene is *PMS1*.
28. The culture of hypermutable, mammalian cells of claim 23 wherein the mismatch repair gene is a human *mutL* homolog.
29. The culture of hypermutable, mammalian cells of claim 23 wherein the cells express a protein consisting of the first 133 amino acids of hPMS2.
30. A method for generating a mutation in a gene affecting antibody production in an antibody-producing cell comprising:
  - growing a said cell comprising said gene and a dominant negative allele of a mismatch repair gene; and
  - testing the cell to determine whether said gene of interest harbors a mutation.
31. The method of claim 30 wherein the step of testing comprises analyzing a nucleotide sequence of said gene.
32. The method of claim 30 wherein the step of testing comprises analyzing mRNA transcribed from said gene.
33. The method of claim 30 wherein the step of testing comprises analyzing a protein encoded by the gene of interest.
34. The method of claim 30 wherein the step of testing comprises analyzing the phenotype of said gene.
35. The method of claim 30 wherein the step of testing comprises analyzing the binding activity of an antibody.

36. A method wherein a mammalian cell is made MMR defective by the process of introducing a polynucleotide comprising an antisense oligonucleotide targeted against an allele of a mismatch repair gene into a mammalian cell, whereby the cell becomes hypermutable.
37. The method of claim 36 wherein the step of testing comprises analyzing a nucleotide sequence of said gene.
38. The method of claim 36 wherein the step of testing comprises analyzing mRNA transcribed from said gene.
39. The method of claim 36 wherein the step of testing comprises analyzing a protein encoded by said gene.
40. The method of claim 36 wherein the step of testing comprises analyzing the phenotype of said gene.
41. The method of claim 36 wherein the step of testing comprises analyzing the binding activity of an antibody.
42. A method for generating a mutation in a gene affecting antibody production in an antibody-producing cell comprising:
  - growing said cell comprising said gene and a polynucleotide encoding a dominant negative allele of a mismatch repair gene; and
  - testing said cell to determine whether said cell harbors at least one mutation in said gene yielding to a new biochemical feature to the product of said gene, wherein said new biochemical feature is selected from the group consisting of over-expression of said product, enhanced secretion of said product, enhanced affinity of said product for antigen, and combinations thereof.
43. The method of claim 42 wherein the step of testing comprises analyzing the steady state expression of the immunoglobulin gene of said cell.
44. The method of claim 42 wherein the step of testing comprises analyzing steady state mRNA transcribed from the immunoglobulin gene of said cell.
45. The method of claim 42 wherein the step of testing comprises analyzing the amount of secreted protein encoded by the immunoglobulin gene of said cell.
46. The method of claim 36 wherein the cell is made by the process of introducing a polynucleotide comprising a dominant negative allele of a mismatch repair gene into a cell in the presence of DNA mutagens.

47. The method of claim 46 wherein the step of testing comprises analyzing a nucleotide sequence of an immunoglobulin gene of said cell.
48. The method of claim 46 wherein the step of testing comprises analyzing mRNA transcribed from the immunoglobulin gene of said cell.
49. The method of claim 46 wherein the step of testing comprises analyzing the immunoglobulin protein encoded by said gene.
50. The method of claim 46 wherein the step of testing comprises analyzing the biochemical activity of the protein encoded by said gene.
51. A hypermutable transgenic mammalian cell made by the method of claim 42.
52. The transgenic mammalian cell of claim 51 wherein said cell is from primate.
53. The transgenic mammalian cell of claim 51 wherein said cell is from rodent.
54. The transgenic mammalian cell of claim 51 wherein said cell is from human.
55. The transgenic mammalian cell of claim 51 wherein said cell is eukaryotic.
56. The transgenic mammalian cell of claim 51 wherein said cell is prokaryotic.
57. A method of reversibly altering the hypermutability of an antibody producing cell comprising introducing an inducible vector into a cell, wherein said inducible vector comprises a dominant negative allele of a mismatch repair gene operably linked to an inducible promoter, and inducing said cell to express said dominant negative mismatch repair gene.
58. The method of claim 57 wherein said mismatch repair gene is *PMS2*.
59. The method of claim 58 wherein said mismatch repair gene is human *PMS2*.
60. The method of claim 57 wherein said mismatch repair gene is *MLH1*.
61. The method of claim 57 wherein said mismatch repair gene is *PMS1*.
62. The method of claim 57 wherein said mismatch repair gene is a human *mutL* homolog.
63. The method of claim 57 wherein said cell expresses a protein consisting of the first 133 amino acids of hPMS2.
64. The method of claim 57 further comprising analyzing the immunoglobulin protein expressed by said antibody producing cell.
65. The method of claim 64 further comprising ceasing induction of said cell, thereby restoring genetic stability of said cell.
66. A method of producing genetically altered antibodies comprising

transfecting a polynucleotide encoding an immunoglobulin protein into a cell, wherein said cell comprises a dominant negative mismatch repair gene;  
growing said cell, thereby producing a hypermutated polynucleotide encoding a hypermutated immunoglobulin protein;  
screening for a desirable property of said hypermutated immunoglobulin protein;

isolating said hypermutated polynucleotide; and

transfecting said hypermutated polynucleotide into a genetically stable cell, thereby producing a hypermutated antibody-producing, genetically stable cell.

67. The method of claim 66 wherein said mismatch repair gene is *PMS2*.
68. The method of claim 66 wherein said mismatch repair gene is human *PMS2*.
69. The method of claim 66 wherein said mismatch repair gene is *MLH1*.
70. The method of claim 66 wherein said mismatch repair gene is *PMS1*.
71. The method of claim 66 wherein said mismatch repair gene is a human *mutL* homolog.
72. The method of claim 66 wherein said cell expresses a protein consisting of the first 133 amino acids of hPMS2.

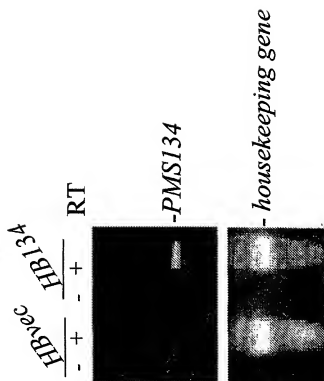


FIG. 1

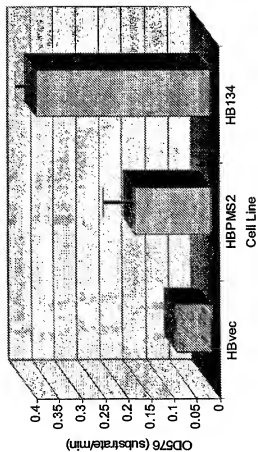
**Fig. 2**



Fig. 3

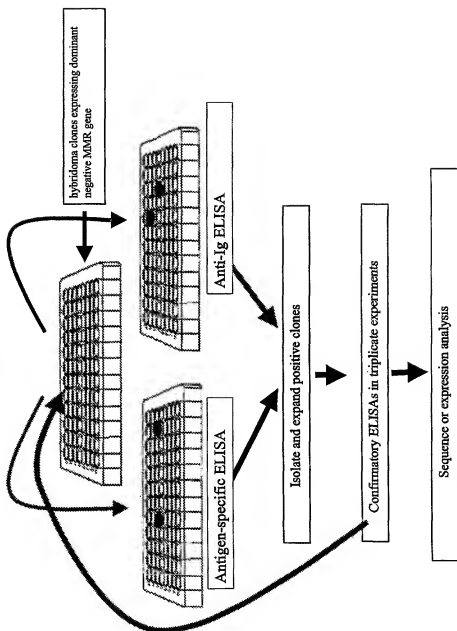
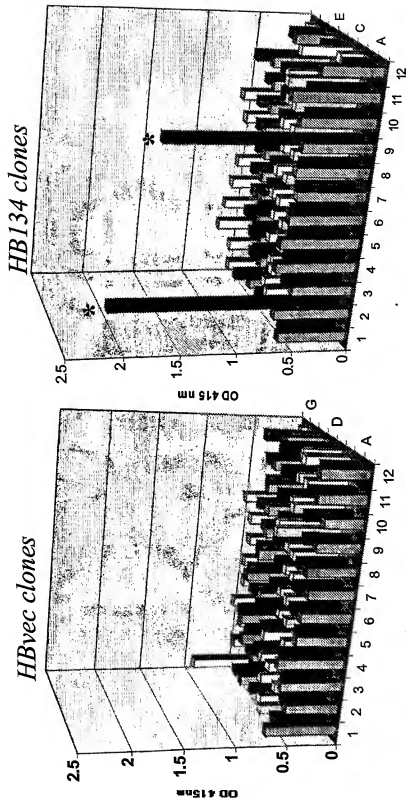


Fig.4



\* = clones with a significant difference in antigen binding

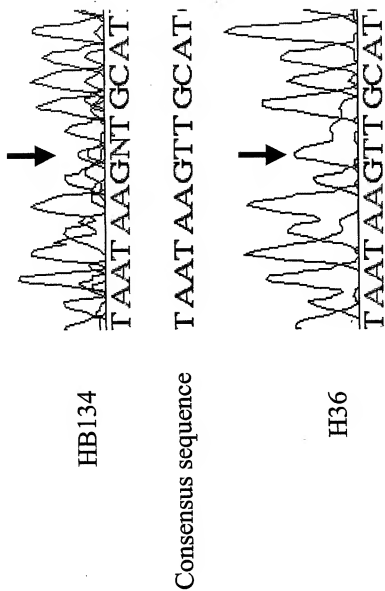


Fig. 5A

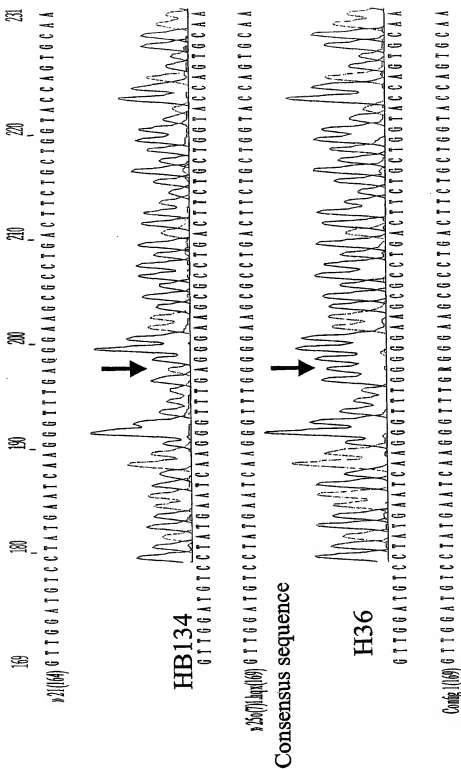


Fig. 5B

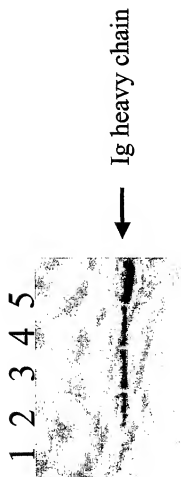


Fig. 6

## SEQUENCE LISTING

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Grasso, Luigi  
Sass, Philip M

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ANTIBODY-PRODUCING CELL LINES WITH IMPROVED ANTIBODY  
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<213> Artificial Sequence

<220>  
<223> Description of Artificial Sequence:oligonucleotide  
primer

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primer

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<223> Description of Artificial Sequence:oligonucleotide  
primer

<400> 3

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19

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<223> Description of Artificial Sequence:oligonucleotide  
primer

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19

<210> 5

<211> 859

<212> PRT

<213> Mus musculus

<400> 5

Met	Glu	Gln	Thr	Glu	Gly	Val	Ser	Thr	Glu	Cys	Ala	Lys	Ala	Ile	Lys
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Pro	Ile	Asp	Gly	Lys	Ser	Val	His	Gln	Ile	Cys	Ser	Gly	Gln	Val	Ile
		20						25					30		

Leu	Ser	Leu	Ser	Thr	Ala	Val	Lys	Glu	Leu	Ile	Glu	Asn	Ser	Val	Asp
	35							40				45			

Ala	Gly	Ala	Thr	Thr	Ile	Asp	Leu	Arg	Leu	Lys	Asp	Tyr	Gly	Val	Asp
	50					55				60					

Leu	Ile	Glu	Val	Ser	Asp	Asn	Gly	Cys	Gly	Val	Glu	Glu	Glu	Asn	Phe
65						70				75				80	

Glu	Gly	Leu	Ala	Leu	Lys	His	His	Thr	Ser	Lys	Ile	Gln	Glu	Phe	Ala
				85				90					95		

Asp	Leu	Thr	Gln	Val	Glu	Thr	Phe	Gly	Phe	Arg	Gly	Glu	Ala	Leu	Ser
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

100	105	110
Ser Leu Cys Ala Leu Ser Asp Val Thr Ile Ser Thr Cys His Gly Ser		
115	120	125
Ala Ser Val Gly Thr Arg Leu Val Phe Asp His Asn Gly Lys Ile Thr		
130	135	140
Gln Lys Thr Pro Tyr Pro Arg Pro Lys Gly Thr Thr Val Ser Val Gln		
145	150	155
His Leu Phe Tyr Thr Leu Pro Val Arg Tyr Lys Glu Phe Gln Arg Asn		
165	170	175
Ile Lys Lys Glu Tyr Ser Lys Met Val Gln Val Leu Gln Ala Tyr Cys		
180	185	190
Ile Ile Ser Ala Gly Val Arg Val Ser Cys Thr Asn Gln Leu Gly Gln		
195	200	205
Gly Lys Arg His Ala Val Val Cys Thr Ser Gly Thr Ser Gly Met Lys		
210	215	220
Glu Asn Ile Gly Ser Val Phe Gly Gln Lys Gln Leu Gln Ser Leu Ile		
225	230	235
Pro Phe Val Gln Leu Pro Pro Ser Asp Ala Val Cys Glu Glu Tyr Gly		
245	250	255
Leu Ser Thr Ser Gly Arg His Lys Thr Phe Ser Thr Phe Arg Ala Ser		
260	265	270
Phe His Ser Ala Arg Thr Ala Pro Gly Gly Val Gln Gln Thr Gly Ser		
275	280	285
Phe Ser Ser Ser Ile Arg Gly Pro Val Thr Gln Gln Arg Ser Leu Ser		
290	295	300
Leu Ser Met Arg Phe Tyr His Met Tyr Asn Arg His Gln Tyr Pro Phe		
305	310	315
Val Val Leu Asn Val Ser Val Asp Ser Glu Cys Val Asp Ile Asn Val		
325	330	335
Thr Pro Asp Lys Arg Gln Ile Leu Leu Gln Glu Glu Lys Leu Leu Leu		
340	345	350
Ala Val Leu Lys Thr Ser Leu Ile Gly Met Phe Asp Ser Asp Ala Asn		



355	360	365
Lys Leu Asn Val Asn Gln Gln Pro Leu Leu Asp Val Glu Gly Asn Leu		
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Val Lys Leu His Thr Ala Glu Leu Glu Lys Pro Val Pro Gly Lys Gln		
385	390	395
Asp Asn Ser Pro Ser Leu Lys Ser Thr Ala Asp Glu Lys Arg Val Ala		
405	410	415
Ser Ile Ser Arg Leu Arg Glu Ala Phe Ser Leu His Pro Thr Lys Glu		
420	425	430
Ile Lys Ser Arg Gly Pro Glu Thr Ala Glu Leu Thr Arg Ser Phe Pro		
435	440	445
Ser Glu Lys Arg Gly Val Leu Ser Ser Tyr Pro Ser Asp Val Ile Ser		
450	455	460
Tyr Arg Gly Leu Arg Gly Ser Gln Asp Lys Leu Val Ser Pro Thr Asp		
465	470	475
Ser Pro Gly Asp Cys Met Asp Arg Glu Lys Ile Glu Lys Asp Ser Gly		
485	490	495
Leu Ser Ser Thr Ser Ala Gly Ser Glu Glu Glu Phe Ser Thr Pro Glu		
500	505	510
Val Ala Ser Ser Phe Ser Ser Asp Tyr Asn Val Ser Ser Leu Glu Asp		
515	520	525
Arg Pro Ser Gln Glu Thr Ile Asn Cys Gly Asp Leu Asp Cys Arg Pro		
530	535	540
Pro Gly Thr Gly Gln Ser Leu Lys Pro Glu Asp His Gly Tyr Gln Cys		
545	550	555
Lys Ala Leu Pro Leu Ala Arg Leu Ser Pro Thr Asn Ala Lys Arg Phe		
565	570	575
Lys Thr Glu Glu Arg Pro Ser Asn Val Asn Ile Ser Gln Arg Leu Pro		
580	585	590
Gly Pro Gln Ser Thr Ser Ala Ala Glu Val Asp Val Ala Ile Lys Met		
595	600	605
Asn Lys Arg Ile Val Leu Leu Glu Phe Ser Leu Ser Ser Leu Ala Lys		

610	615	620
Arg Met Lys Gln Leu Gln His Leu Lys Ala Gln Asn Lys His Glu Leu		
625	630	635 640
Ser Tyr Arg Lys Phe Arg Ala Lys Ile Cys Pro Gly Glu Asn Gln Ala		
645	650	655
Ala Glu Asp Glu Leu Arg Lys Glu Ile Ser Lys Ser Met Phe Ala Glu		
660	665	670
Met Glu Ile Leu Gly Gln Phe Asn Leu Gly Phe Ile Val Thr Lys Leu		
675	680	685
Lys Glu Asp Leu Phe Leu Val Asp Gln His Ala Ala Asp Glu Lys Tyr		
690	695	700
Asn Phe Glu Met Leu Gln Gln His Thr Val Leu Gln Ala Gln Arg Leu		
705	710	715 720
Ile Thr Pro Gln Thr Leu Asn Leu Thr Ala Val Asn Glu Ala Val Leu		
725	730	735
Ile Glu Asn Leu Glu Ile Phe Arg Lys Asn Gly Phe Asp Phe Val Ile		
740	745	750
Asp Glu Asp Ala Pro Val Thr Glu Arg Ala Lys Leu Ile Ser Leu Pro		
755	760	765
Thr Ser Lys Asn Trp Thr Phe Gly Pro Gln Asp Ile Asp Glu Leu Ile		
770	775	780
Phe Met Leu Ser Asp Ser Pro Gly Val Met Cys Arg Pro Ser Arg Val		
785	790	795 800
Arg Gln Met Phe Ala Ser Arg Ala Cys Arg Lys Ser Val Met Ile Gly		
805	810	815
Thr Ala Leu Asn Ala Ser Glu Met Lys Lys Leu Ile Thr His Met Gly		
820	825	830
Glu Met Asp His Pro Trp Asn Cys Pro His Gly Arg Pro Thr Met Arg		
835	840	845
His Val Ala Asn Leu Asp Val Ile Ser Gln Asn		
850	855	

<210> 6  
 <211> 3056  
 <212> DNA  
 <213> *Mus musculus*

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 gtctttttcc gagagcggca cgcgaactct ccgcggtga ctgtgactcg aggagtccctg 180  
 catccatgga gcaaaccgaa ggcgtgagta cagaatgtgc taaggccatc aagcctattg 240  
 atgggaagtc agtccatcaa attgttctg ggcaggtgat actcagttta agcacccgtg 300  
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 atctggaat atccagaag aatggcttgg actttgtcat tgatgagatg cctcagta 2460  
 ctgaaggagg taaattgatt tctttaccaa ctagtaaaaa ctggaccttt ggaccccaag 2520

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tcaatgcgag cgagatgaag aagctcatca ccacatggg tgagatggac caccocctgga 2700
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agactcaatt caaggacaaa aaaaaaaga tatttttgaa gccttttaaa aaaaaa 3056

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&lt;210&gt; 7

&lt;211&gt; 862

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; Homo sapiens

&lt;400&gt; 7

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Met Glu Arg Ala Glu Ser Ser Ser Thr Glu Pro Ala Lys Ala Ile Lys
  1             5             10             15

```

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Pro Ile Asp Arg Lys Ser Val His Gln Ile Cys Ser Gly Gln Val Val
          20             25             30

```

```

Leu Ser Leu Ser Thr Ala Val Lys Glu Leu Val Glu Asn Ser Leu Asp
          35             40             45

```

```

Ala Gly Ala Thr Asn Ile Asp Leu Lys Leu Lys Asp Tyr Gly Val Asp
          50             55             60

```

```

Leu Ile Glu Val Ser Asp Asn Gly Cys Gly Val Glu Glu Glu Asn Phe
          65             70             75             80

```

```

Glu Gly Leu Thr Leu Lys His His Thr Ser Lys Ile Gln Glu Phe Ala
          85             90             95

```

```

Asp Leu Thr Gln Val Glu Thr Phe Gly Phe Arg Gly Glu Ala Leu Ser
          100            105            110

```

```

Ser Leu Cys Ala Leu Ser Asp Val Thr Ile Ser Thr Cys His Ala Ser
          115            120            125

```

```

Ala Lys Val Gly Thr Arg Leu Met Phe Asp His Asn Gly Lys Ile Ile
          130            135            140

```

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Gln Lys Thr Pro Tyr Pro Arg Pro Arg Gly Thr Thr Val Ser Val Gln
          145            150            155            160

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Gln Leu Phe Ser Thr Leu Pro Val Arg His Lys Glu Phe Gln Arg Asn

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165										170										175										
Ile	Lys	Lys	Glu	Tyr	Ala	Lys	Met	Val	Gln	Val	Leu	His	Ala	Tyr	Cys															
			180						185						190															
Ile	Ile	Ser	Ala	Gly	Ile	Arg	Val	Ser	Cys	Thr	Asn	Gln	Leu	Gly	Gln															
		195					200						205																	
Gly	Lys	Arg	Gln	Pro	Val	Val	Cys	Thr	Gly	Gly	Ser	Pro	Ser	Ile	Lys															
		210				215					220																			
Glu	Asn	Ile	Gly	Ser	Val	Phe	Gly	Gln	Lys	Gln	Leu	Gln	Ser	Leu	Ile															
225				230						235				240																
Pro	Phe	Val	Gln	Leu	Pro	Pro	Ser	Asp	Ser	Val	Cys	Glu	Glu	Tyr	Gly															
				245					250					255																
Leu	Ser	Cys	Ser	Asp	Ala	Leu	His	Asn	Leu	Phe	Tyr	Ile	Ser	Gly	Phe															
			260					265					270																	
Ile	Ser	Gln	Cys	Thr	His	Gly	Val	Gly	Arg	Ser	Ser	Thr	Asp	Arg	Gln															
		275					280						285																	
Phe	Phe	Phe	Ile	Asn	Arg	Arg	Pro	Cys	Asp	Pro	Ala	Lys	Val	Cys	Arg															
		290				295					300																			
Leu	Val	Asn	Glu	Val	Tyr	His	Met	Tyr	Asn	Arg	His	Gln	Tyr	Pro	Phe															
305					310					315				320																
Val	Val	Leu	Asn	Ile	Ser	Val	Asp	Ser	Glu	Cys	Val	Asp	Ile	Asn	Val															
			325						330				335																	
Thr	Pro	Asp	Lys	Arg	Gln	Ile	Leu	Leu	Gln	Glu	Glu	Lys	Leu	Leu	Leu															
		340						345					350																	
Ala	Val	Leu	Lys	Thr	Ser	Leu	Ile	Gly	Met	Phe	Asp	Ser	Asp	Val	Asn															
		355					360				365																			
Lys	Leu	Asn	Val	Ser	Gln	Gln	Pro	Leu	Leu	Asp	Val	Glu	Gly	Asn	Leu															
		370				375					380																			
Ile	Lys	Met	His	Ala	Ala	Asp	Leu	Glu	Lys	Pro	Met	Val	Glu	Lys	Gln															
385					390					395				400																
Asp	Gln	Ser	Pro	Ser	Leu	Arg	Thr	Gly	Glu	Glu	Lys	Lys	Asp	Val	Ser															
			405						410				415																	
Ile	Ser	Arg	Leu	Arg	Glu	Ala	Phe	Ser	Leu	Arg	His	Thr	Thr	Glu	Asn															

420	425	430
Lys Pro His Ser Pro Lys Thr	Pro Glu Pro Arg Arg Ser	Pro Leu Gly
435	440	445
Gln Lys Arg Gly Met Leu Ser Ser Ser Thr Ser Gly Ala Ile Ser Asp		
450	455	460
Lys Gly Val Leu Arg Pro Gln Lys Glu Ala Val Ser Ser Ser His Gly		
465	470	475
Pro Ser Asp Pro Thr Asp Arg Ala Glu Val Glu Lys Asp Ser Gly His		
485	490	495
Gly Ser Thr Ser Val Asp Ser Glu Gly Phe Ser Ile Pro Asp Thr Gly		
500	505	510
Ser His Cys Ser Ser Glu Tyr Ala Ala Ser Ser Pro Gly Asp Arg Gly		
515	520	525
Ser Gln Glu His Val Asp Ser Gln Glu Lys Ala Pro Glu Thr Asp Asp		
530	535	540
Ser Phe Ser Asp Val Asp Cys His Ser Asn Gln Glu Asp Thr Gly Cys		
545	550	555
Lys Phe Arg Val Leu Pro Gln Pro Thr Asn Leu Ala Thr Pro Asn Thr		
565	570	575
Lys Arg Phe Lys Lys Glu Glu Ile Leu Ser Ser Ser Asp Ile Cys Gln		
580	585	590
Lys Leu Val Asn Thr Gln Asp Met Ser Ala Ser Gln Val Asp Val Ala		
595	600	605
Val Lys Ile Asn Lys Lys Val Val Pro Leu Asp Phe Ser Met Ser Ser		
610	615	620
Leu Ala Lys Arg Ile Lys Gln Leu His His Glu Ala Gln Gln Ser Glu		
625	630	635
Gly Glu Gln Asn Tyr Arg Lys Phe Arg Ala Lys Ile Cys Pro Gly Glu		
645	650	655
Asn Gln Ala Ala Glu Asp Glu Leu Arg Lys Glu Ile Ser Lys Thr Met		
660	665	670
Phe Ala Glu Met Glu Ile Ile Gly Gln Phe Asn Leu Gly Phe Ile Ile		

675	680	685
Thr Lys Leu Asn Glu Asp Ile Phe Ile Val Asp Gln His Ala Thr Asp		
690	695	700
Glu Lys Tyr Asn Phe Glu Met Leu Gln Gln His Thr Val Leu Gln Gly		
705	710	715
Gln Arg Leu Ile Ala Pro Gln Thr Leu Asn Leu Thr Ala Val Asn Glu		
725	730	735
Ala Val Leu Ile Glu Asn Leu Glu Ile Phe Arg Lys Asn Gly Phe Asp		
740	745	750
Phe Val Ile Asp Glu Asn Ala Pro Val Thr Glu Arg Ala Lys Leu Ile		
755	760	765
Ser Leu Pro Thr Ser Lys Asn Trp Thr Phe Gly Pro Gln Asp Val Asp		
770	775	780
Glu Leu Ile Phe Met Leu Ser Asp Ser Pro Gly Val Met Cys Arg Pro		
785	790	795
Ser Arg Val Lys Gln Met Phe Ala Ser Arg Ala Cys Arg Lys Ser Val		
805	810	815
Met Ile Gly Thr Ala Leu Asn Thr Ser Glu Met Lys Lys Leu Ile Thr		
820	825	830
His Met Gly Glu Met Asp His Pro Trp Asn Cys Pro His Gly Arg Pro		
835	840	845
Thr Met Arg His Ile Ala Asn Leu Gly Val Ile Ser Gln Asn		
850	855	860

&lt;210&gt; 8

&lt;211&gt; 2771

&lt;212&gt; DNA

&lt;213&gt; Homo sapiens

&lt;400&gt; 8

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2771

<210> 9  
 <211> 932  
 <212> FRT  
 <213> Homo sapiens



&lt;400&gt; 9

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      20             25             30

Leu Asp Ala Gly Ala Thr Ser Val Asp Val Lys Leu Glu Asn Tyr Gly
      35             40             45

Phe Asp Lys Ile Glu Val Arg Asp Asn Gly Glu Gly Ile Lys Ala Val
      50             55             60

Asp Ala Pro Val Met Ala Met Lys Tyr Tyr Thr Ser Lys Ile Asn Ser
      65             70             75             80

His Glu Asp Leu Glu Asn Leu Thr Thr Tyr Gly Phe Arg Gly Glu Ala
      85             90             95

Leu Gly Ser Ile Cys Cys Ile Ala Glu Val Leu Ile Thr Thr Arg Thr
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Ile Leu Ser Gln Lys Pro Ser His Leu Gly Gln Gly Thr Thr Val Thr
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Ala Leu Arg Leu Phe Lys Asn Leu Pro Val Arg Lys Gln Phe Tyr Ser
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Thr Ala Lys Lys Cys Lys Asp Glu Ile Lys Lys Ile Gln Asp Leu Leu
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Met Ser Phe Gly Ile Leu Lys Pro Asp Leu Arg Ile Val Phe Val His
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Asn Lys Ala Val Ile Trp Gln Lys Ser Arg Val Ser Asp His Lys Met
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Pro Lys Cys Asp Ala Asp His Ser Phe Thr Ser Leu Ser Thr Pro Glu
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 Asp Val Asp Val Asn Leu Thr Pro Asp Lys Ser Gln Val Leu Leu Gln  
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 625 630 635 640  
 Gln Glu Ser Gln Met Ser Leu Lys Asp Gly Arg Lys Lys Ile Lys Pro  
 645 650 655  
 Thr Ser Ala Trp Asn Leu Ala Gln Lys His Lys Leu Lys Thr Ser Leu  
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Gly Phe Lys Ile Lys Leu Ile Pro Gly Val Ser Ile Thr Glu Asn Tyr  
820 825 830

Leu Glu Ile Glu Gly Met Ala Asn Cys Leu Pro Phe Tyr Gly Val Ala  
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Asp Leu Lys Glu Ile Leu Asn Ala Ile Leu Asn Arg Asn Ala Lys Glu  
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Val Tyr Glu Cys Arg Pro Arg Lys Val Ile Ser Tyr Leu Glu Gly Glu  
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&lt;211&gt; 934

&lt;212&gt; PRT

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&lt;400&gt; 11

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30

Thr Val Arg Leu Phe Asp Arg Gly Asp Phe Tyr Thr Ala His Gly Glu

35

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Asp Ala Leu Leu Ala Ala Arg Glu Val Phe Lys Thr Gln Gly Val Ile

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55

60

Lys Tyr Met Gly Pro Ala Gly Ala Lys Asn Leu Gln Ser Val Val Leu

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70

75

80

Ser Lys Met Asn Phe Glu Ser Phe Val Lys Asp Leu Leu Leu Val Arg

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90

95

Gln Tyr Arg Val Glu Val Tyr Lys Asn Arg Ala Gly Asn Lys Ala Ser

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Lys Glu Asn Asp Trp Tyr Leu Ala Tyr Lys Ala Ser Pro Gly Asn Leu

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Ser Gln Phe Glu Asp Ile Leu Phe Gly Asn Asn Asp Met Ser Ala Ser

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Ile Gly Val Val Gly Val Lys Met Ser Ala Val Asp Gly Gln Arg Gln

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Val Gly Val Gly Tyr Val Asp Ser Ile Gln Arg Lys Leu Gly Leu Cys

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Glu Phe Pro Asp Asn Asp Gln Phe Ser Asn Leu Glu Ala Leu Leu Ile

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Gln Ile Gly Pro Lys Glu Cys Val Leu Pro Gly Gly Glu Thr Ala Gly

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Val Ile Lys	Phe Leu Glu Leu Leu Ser Asp Asp Ser Asn Phe Gly Gln					
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Phe Glu Leu Thr Thr Phe Asp Phe Ser Gln Tyr Met Lys Leu Asp Ile						
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Thr Gly Ser Gln Ser Leu Ala Ala Leu Leu Asn Lys Cys Lys Thr Pro						
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Gln Gly Gln Arg Leu Val Asn Gln Trp Ile Lys Gln Pro Leu Met Asp						
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Pro Asp Leu Asn Arg Leu Ala Lys Lys Phe Gln Arg Gln Ala Ala Asn						
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Leu Gln Asp Cys Tyr Arg Leu Tyr Gln Gly Ile Asn Gln Leu Pro Asn						
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Val Ile Gln Ala Leu Glu Lys His Glu Gly Lys His Gln Lys Leu Leu						
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Lys Phe Gln Glu Met Ile Glu Thr Thr Leu Asp Met Asp Gln Val Glu						
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Tyr Lys Ala Leu Arg Ser His Ile Leu Pro Pro Lys His Phe Thr Glu  
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## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.  
PCT/US00/80588

<b>A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER</b> IPC(7) : Please See Extra Sheet. US CL : 424/93.2, 150.1; 455 /69.1, 410, 440; 536/84.5; 800/25 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC		
<b>B. FIELDS SEARCHED</b> Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) U.S. : 424/93.2, 150.1; 455 /69.1, 410, 440; 536/84.5; 800/25 Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used) STN CAS, MEDLINE, BIOSIS, EMBASE, CAPLUS, WEST		
<b>C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT</b>		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	KONG, Q. et al. PMS2-deficiency diminishes hypermutation of a lambdal transgene in young but not older mice. Molecular Immunology. 1999, Vol. 36, pages 83-91, entire document.	1-4, 12-15, 22-25, 30-56
Y	VORA K.A. et al. Severe Attenuation of the B Cell Immune Response In Msh2-deficient Mice. Journal of Experimental Medicine. February 1999, Vol. 189, No. 3, pages 471-481, entire document.	1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 22-23, 30-56.
Y	WINTER, D.B. ET AL. Altered spectra of hypermutation in antibodies from mice deficient for the DNA mismatch repair protein PMS2. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci., USA. June 1998, Vol. 95, pages 6953-6958, entire document.	1-4, 12-15, 22-25, 30-56
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. <input type="checkbox"/> See patent family annex.		
* Special categories of cited documents: "A" Document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance "P" Earlier document published on or after the international filing date "L" Document which may throw doubt on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) "O" Document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means "T" Document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	"T" Later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention "X" Document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "Y" Document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art "A" Document member of the same patent family	
Date of the actual completion of the international search 05 JANUARY 2001		Date of mailing of the international search report 12 MAR 2001
Name and mailing address of the ISA/US Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks Box PCT Washington, D.C. 20231 Facsimile No. (703) 305-3250		Authorized officer: David Saunders Telephone No. (703) 308-0196

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US00/30588

## C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	SCHRADER, C.E. et al. Reduced Isotype Switching in Splenic B Cells From Mice Deficient in Mismatch Repair Enzymes. <i>Journal of Experimental Medicine</i> . 1998, Vol. 190, No. 3, pages 323-330, entire document.	1-4, 6, 12-13, 17 22-23, 27, 30-56

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US00/50588

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER:

IPC (7)

A01N 65/00; A61K 39/395, 48/00; C07H 21/04; C12N 5/00, 15/00; C12P 21/06